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• Looking to decorate your apartment? The BMA's got a new exhibit on Japanese textiles that, for a small fortune, will liven up those dorm room walls, **B6**.



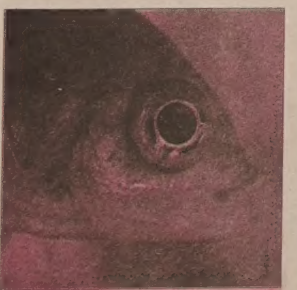
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YOUR N-L

• Win a goldfish at Spring Fair? Don't want it to die in 20 minutes? Then check out how to care for man's mildly entertaining friend, **B9**.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Tolu Owodunni '07, Ann Peters '09 and Becky Gordon '08 try their luck at winning a new pet goldfish during last weekend's Spring Fair, which drew large crowds.

Dampened by rain, Spring Fair weekend still deemed a success

By ERIN YANG

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Despite an early closure and a decrease in overall size, Hopkins' 36th annual Spring Fair, the largest student-run fair on any U.S. college campus, was deemed a success by organizers.

This year's Spring Fair hosted about 25 food vendors, 60 art-and-crafts vendors, 29

non-profit groups, and various student organizations. The official programs included the traditional Beer Garden, day and night performances and a children's section.

"I smelled Spring Fair when I walked out of my dorm this morning," said sophomore Jacqueline Sofia, holding her chicken-on-a-stick.

"The piña colada smoothie is a must have," noted junior Amanuel Alemu, who

was attending his third Spring Fair.

One event that takes place around the time of Spring Fair, but is not affiliated with it, is Relay for Life, (RFL) which concluded its Cancer Awareness Week Friday, with a relay to raise money for cancer research. Seventeen cancer survivors and about 50 teams took part in the event this year.

RFL featured various theme laps
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COURTESY OF BEN TOWNSEND
Mourning students hold a vigil for the victims of the massacre at Virginia Tech.

Tragedy at Virginia Tech shocks the world

By YASIN AKBARI

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Violence erupted at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute on Monday in the largest mass shooting in recent U.S. history, claiming 33 lives and wounding many students and teachers.

The president of Virginia Tech has called the shootings a tragedy of monumental proportions, and people at Virginia Tech, Hopkins and across the world have expressed their shock and horror at Monday's events.

The shooter was 23-year-old Virginia Tech student Cho Seung-Hui, an English major who moved to the U.S. as a child from his native South Korea.

The tragedies of Monday morning have evoked an enormous
CONTINUED ON PAGE A2

Class elections see rise in turnout; freshmen positions most contested

By STEFANIE BENCA

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Although many positions were uncontested, Student Council class elections saw a significant increase in voter turnout this year, with about 1,400 students voting compared to just over 1,100 last year.

Only 32 candidates ran for the 21 positions that were voted on. The class of 2010 claimed more than half of the candidates, with 17 students contending for

their seven offices. All of the offices for the class of 2009 were uncontested.

Sophomore Jeremy Batoff, head of the Committee on Student Elections (CSE), attributes the significant number of uncontested positions to the fact that "people just don't care."

He believes that the main goal of the CSE is to ensure equality and fairness in elections. He looks to the rest of Student Council to address the perceived problem

of student disinterest. "The first priority is that everything is fair. We do a good job. But one problem the school has is that people are apathetic to the Student Council and to student government," Batoff said.

Some candidates from the class of 2010 exhibited an active interest in re-defining the role of StuCo within the school.

Class of 2010 President Teryn Norris-Hale, who co-founded Hopkins
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FAS guest Nafisi speaks on cultural appreciation

By SARA HASSANI

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Azar Nafisi, an international relations and human rights political activist and the author of the best-seller *Reading Lolita in Tehran* spoke to a receptive audience on Tuesday as a part of Hopkins' Foreign Affairs Symposium 2007.

Nafisi began her speech by discussing the importance of having as complete a point of view as possible with regard to other places around the world.

"When you think of Tehran, you think of nukes, not seven girls sitting around reading *Lolita*," she said. She suggested that people often reduce many different countries with



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Nafisi, an activist, urged the audience to have a balanced view of the Arab world.

heavy Islamic populations (i.e. Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan) to one thing only — religion, and then to fundamentalism.

In contrast, European countries are not referred to as Christian, she said.

"The first thing we need to understand is that these countries have more than religion, they have cultures and a history as well," she said.

The American culture and people rely most of the time only on sound bites of information, many of which, she said, have reduced our mind to a

"trash bin." Injecting a tone of humor, she declared that too much time is spent on the debate as to which parent Suri Cruise resembles more or who should be given custody of Anna Nicole Smith's child.

"We do not pay attention to Iran and Anna Nicole Smith the way we should," she said.

Nafisi spoke about the importance of literature, attempting to relate its impact on her life to the audience. She commented on the separation of literature and sciences at Hopkins, and expressed regret with
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City denies Phi Psi, sides with neighbors

City zoning board votes unanimously to prohibit use of house as fraternity residence

By MARIE CUSHING

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Phi Kappa Psi Maryland Alpha lost an appeal to continue use of their house at 3906 Canterbury Rd. as a fraternity on Tuesday, in which the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals unanimously ruled that the house was effectively abandoned and was not compatible with the neighborhood.

Representatives for the fraternity, which has owned the house for over 30 years, expressed deep dissatisfaction with the results of their appeal.

"I'm disappointed. I thought the fraternity presented a clear case," said Herbert Burgunder III, the legal representative for the holding company that owns the house and property. He presented the case in a two-hour debate before the board that pitted representatives of the fraternity, commonly known as Phi Psi, against several community members and neighbors to the property.

Under current zoning regulations, fraternity buildings are not allowed in the zone in which the Tuscany-Canterbury neighborhood is located. The Phi Psi house was exempt from the code because it has existed as a fraternity residence since 1961, before the restriction was enacted. According to Baltimore zoning code, the classification of the
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ResLife tightens enforcement of flyering policy

Student groups' postings rejected due to inappropriate content

By PATRICIA PUGH

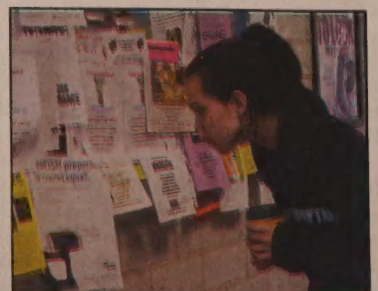
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Office of Residential Life's strengthened enforcement of its policy regulating the content of posted advertisements in dorms has sparked debate over restrictions on student speech.

After failing to remove advertisements for their play that were deemed inappropriate by the Office of Residential Life and then banned in campus dormitories, the Buttered Niblets comedy group have been placed on suspension with ResLife for the remainder of the semester.

Shelly Fickau, director of ResLife, argued that in determining approval, signs and posters in dormitories are given fair evaluations.

"I look at it through the eyes of somebody who has to walk by it everyday. People have opinions all over the spectrum. I judge it from both
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LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER
Lisa Ely '09 peruses a bulletin board. ResLife has been criticized for its stringent policies.

NEWS

Rain, heavy winds force early closure of Fair

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and entertainment groups including Throat Culture, Octopodes, Flim Flam and more. In addition to recognizing the courage and strength of the survivors, RFL raised about \$55,000 for the American Cancer Society to utilize as funds for education, research, advocacy and patient services.

Members set up the HOPE sign on the stairs of the Breezeway, candles symbolizing cancer survivors and victims were lit.

"[It] was incredibly inspiring and beautiful," said Laxmi Pellakuru, co-chair of Relay for Life.

"The event was a huge success, and we are looking to win the 'Most Spirited Relay for Life Event' from the American Cancer Society."

The unusually good weather during the day on Saturday attracted many fair-goers.

One of the highlights was the Common concert at the Ralph S. O'Connor Recreation Center on Saturday night.

Apparently, the weather and electric difficulties before the concert did not prevent the enthusiastic fans from enjoying the night.

Sophomore Jessica Tural might have received many jealous eyes from other female con-



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Despite the impending bleak weather, members of the Hopkins and surrounding communities got a chance to enjoy Spring Fair.

cert attendees, as she was the girl who Common invited to dance with him on stage.

"I loved the concert. [Common] was so amazing and full of life," Tural said, still recovering from the excitement.

The scheduled 8 p.m. concert did not begin until 9:30 p.m.

"I was waiting outside for two and a half hours instead of just the 30 minutes I had planned," said Tural, who expressed disappointment that Common did not stay nor sign autographs afterward.

It was freshman Megan Tsui's first Spring Fair experience.

"It was definitely something different, and the Pie-Eating Contest was amusing," Tsui said. She one of the many observers who witnessed hungry contestants gobbling down apple pies prepared by Cooking 4 Love.

Jeanette Brown, a member of University library staff,

took an hour from work to stroll in between vendors.

However, Brown was not entirely satisfied with what she saw, noting what appeared to be a decreasing number of vendors since her first experience of Spring Fair at Hopkins.

"The food selection was good, but expensive," Brown added.

According to Susan Boswell, dean of Student Life, the fair was smaller due to space constraints, but "the quality of the vendors was very high."

As in years past, Spring Fair was hampered by rain.

"It seems it always has to rain sometimes, why doesn't the University schedule Spring Fair around September where the weather is nice and hectic exam days are avoided," library staff member Michael Handzo suggested.

Unfortunately Spring Fair had to be closed Sunday due to heavy rains.

"It mainly affected the vendors who lost a day of sales, as well as the loss of amazing food and fun for our Hopkins and surrounding communities," said Grant Boyadjian, Spring Fair executive co-chair.

Regardless, Spring Fair cheered up the University this past weekend.

"It went off without a hitch. A great shout-out to our staffs and much appreciation to everyone," Boyadjian said.

Fraternity will appeal zoning board's ruling

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house as a "nonconforming structure" was dependent upon "existing use of a structure or of land that does not conform to the applicable use regulations of the district in which it is located."

Since the board ruled that the house was abandoned, it lost its status as a nonconforming property. The board was legally able to grant extended time during which repairs could be made and occupancy could be resumed, but ruled that incompatibility with the neighborhood did not merit reinstating it.

Neighbors testified that they had not seen evidence of anyone residing in the building since early July 2005. Ralph Kurtz, who lives across from the house, testified that he was told on July 2, 2005 by the fraternity president that the fraternity was vacating the property.

Hopkins graduate Benjamin Gibbs, president of the alumni-run holding company responsible for the property, stated that the building was "used for fraternity purposes," such as basketball games or as a meeting place before philanthropic events, up until Oct. 10, 2005.

Both sides of case were upset with the lack of support from the University.

"People came forward and said they were disappointed with the lack of involvement," said lawyer John Denick, who represented the Tuscany-Canterbury Neighborhood Association (TCNA).

According to Denick, TCNA approached President Brody with their concerns, and were deferred to the University's legal representatives. Ultimately, they were sent to Director of Community Affairs Salem Reiner. "Salem Reiner said that off-campus housing is not regulated by the University," Derrick said.

"We were kind of shocked not to see a University representative down here to give a position, one way or another," said Leslie Williams, a Hopkins alum and Phi Psi brother who has advised the holding company on legal issues in the past and testified on their behalf.

Burgunder presented to the board a petition with the signatures of 90 residents supporting the fraternity. He argued that the neighborhood was using the zoning board to settle disputes

with the fraternity that should be handled by the police.

"If we were talking about nuns, we wouldn't be talking about any of this. It's akin to moving next to an airport and saying I don't like the noise. This is not the proper venue to punish bad behavior," Burgunder said. He maintained a running objection to the testimony of neighbors attesting to the disturbing behavior of fraternity residents as hearsay and non-expert testimony.

"I know a philanthropic organization when I see one, but I'm glad the fraternity considers themselves a philanthropic organization," said Miriam Shark, a senior associate at the Annie E. Casey foundation who has lived by the fraternity house for 13 years. Shark testified that the house has not been occupied since July 23, 2005.

Mary Pat Clarke, the Baltimore City Councilmember for the 14th district, testified that the property could be put to better use. Clarke, who has lived in the area since 1967, said that the neighborhood has a history of a "positive reuse of four pretty wrecked-up fraternity houses." She testified that the former frat houses are now single-family dwellings and an extension to the Calvert School, a middle school adjacent to the property.

Carl Hyman, president of the Tuscany-Canterbury Community Association, testified that the house has been the site of "37 police visits in the past two years."

"Concerns about Greek life have led to discussions of the creation of a fraternity row. The neighborhood is committed to working with the University, but we need support from their side," Hyman said.

Opposition to the fraternity also came in the form of letters submitted to the board from community resident and the principle of the Calvert School. City Council president Stephanie Rawlings-Blake sent a letter stating her support of neighborhood residents "reclaim[ing] the sanctity of their neighborhood."

Burgunder said that the fraternity would wait until the board's written decision is released before deciding whether or not to take the case before the Maryland Court of Appeals. He added that sale of the property, with an estimated value of \$1.1 million, is a possibility.



LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

Baltimore residents got a chance to catch some of the rides before inclement weather shut them down.

Students stunned by Va. Tech killings

Members of Hopkins community express shock over campus shooting that claimed 33 lives

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outpouring of sympathy from the entire country. In only a little more than two days, the Facebook group "A tribute to those who passed at the Virginia Tech Shooting" has grown to more than 280,000 members from colleges and regions around the world.

On the Hopkins campus, many students, staff and faculty were deeply touched by Monday's shootings.

Many Hopkins students who remember clearly the killings of

Hall on the opposite end of campus.

Upon arrival, police found that the front doors had been chained closed from the inside. Later, after forcing their way in, police canvassed the building, finding dozens of gunshot victims dead, including Cho, presumably at his own hands.

In the wake of the tragedy, many have criticized the lack of a quick warning to the Virginia Tech community that an armed gunman was roaming the campus after having already killed

two people. No e-mail was circulated until 9:26 a.m., over two hours after the initial violence.

However, some students feel that the administration and police forces should not be blamed for the delay.

Fred Angel, a freshman at Virginia Tech, said, "Being a student with a very close

friend lost during the shooting, a friend that lived right down the hall, I feel no blame is to be placed on the administration or police.

"They did what they could with the information they had. No one can predict what a maniac and as we know now a clearly disturbed student would do."

None of the students trapped inside the building in which 31 people died knew of the attacks in the residence hall, and some even thought that Cho was playing a practical joke when he

entered the classrooms with a gun.

After the shootings, students were told to remain in their rooms with the windows and doors locked, away from the windows, in case there were two separate gunmen (as originally thought by police).

Classes were cancelled, and Norris Hall, the building in which 31 of the 33 deaths took place, has been closed for the remainder of the semester.

At Virginia Tech, victims are remembered and memorials are being organized by their friends, families and teachers.

Angel said of his slain friend, "My friend Caitlin was a great, great person. [She] cared for everyone and [was] clearly the most loved person on our hall. We will miss her and all the other 31 victims."

President Bush offered words of condolence and healing in a brief televised statement on Monday.

"Today, our nation grieves with those who have lost loved ones at Virginia Tech," he said, echoing the sentiments of many across the country.

The shootings at Virginia Tech raised security concerns on some college campuses. It remains to be seen whether Hopkins, will adjust its security systems in response to Monday's shootings.

A senior at Hopkins, John Lichtefeld, said, "The only response [he] would expect from Hopkins is to ensure that we have an emergency response plan and adequate help for people under too much stress under campus."

The shooting occurred just four days before the eighth anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting, in which two students killed 13 people before turning the guns on themselves in Littleton, Colo.

Freshman interest helps turnout at elections

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Energy Action Team this year, has strong words for StuCo.

"Actions speak louder than words ... The fact is that most students are apathetic because StuCo focuses on irrelevant issues. I plan to combat this by working on the big issues we all care about — and then utilizing the same sort of organizational tactics I have used for HEAT to bring students together," he said.

Evan Lazerowitz, Senator of Legislation for the class of 2010, says that StuCo is not taken seriously because it lacks legitimacy.

"A lot of the organizations that run under us, like the HOP, MSE, Spring Fair, and the SAC, do not regularly report to us, as they are required to do. It's our job to give them a lot of oversight, and that does not really occur," he said. He thinks that StuCo has extended itself to the point where they can no longer "make sure they're doing a good job, etc. As a result, we're not taken seriously."

The Student Council for the class of 2008 will keep Natasha Singh as President, Julia Cheung as Vice President, Kristina Das as Secretary, Doohyun Lee as Senator of Finance, Aaron Selikson as Senator of Legislation, Derrick Kuan as Senator of COLA and Zachary Moor as Senator of Authorization.

"I wanted to do it freshman year but my English sucked," Lee said.

Although every candidate was allowed to campaign the week of April 5-12, many nominees did not campaign with posters and banners.

"I didn't do anything. I think I saw Anupama's posters

around campus though," Lee said.

For the class of 2009, Sonny Chandrasekhar was elected as President, Jessica Buicko as Vice President, Tuyen Nguyen as Secretary, Marissa Neto as Senator of Finance, Kate Jacob as Senator of Legislation, Chethan Malala as Senator of COLA and Nick Pucci as Senator of Authorization.

There were significantly fewer candidates running for upperclassmen positions than for the class of 2010.

"I think that a lot of times there aren't as many people running for junior and senior class offices because it's harder to jump into things later on," Buicko said. "I think the fact that I've been VP of my class both freshman and sophomore years have allowed me to build a strong relationship with many of the students and faculty members involved with StuCo."

Although the Committee for Student Elections allows candidates to spend up to \$300 on campaigning, the majority of nominees did not even campaign.

"I actually didn't spend any money on my campaign. In the past I've made fliers and posters but by the end of sophomore year I feel like I've met a lot more people, and when I went around getting signatures to be on the ballot, I used that to talk about

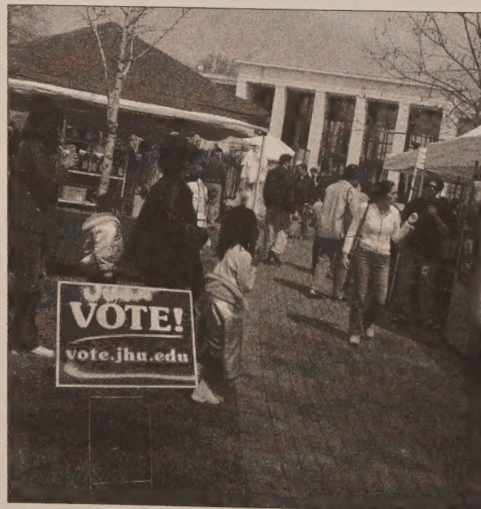
my campaign," Buicko said.

The highly contested class of 2010 Student Council comprises Teryn Norris as President, Nate Levin as Vice President, Affan Sheikh as Secretary, Joshua Loveall as Senator of Finance, Evan Lazerowitz as Senator of Legislation, Viann Nguyen as Senator of COLA and Dea Lovy as Senator of Authorization.

Except for Senator of Legislation, every position for the class of 2010 had at least two nominees. Lazerowitz, Loveall and Levin were the only students re-elected to their offices.

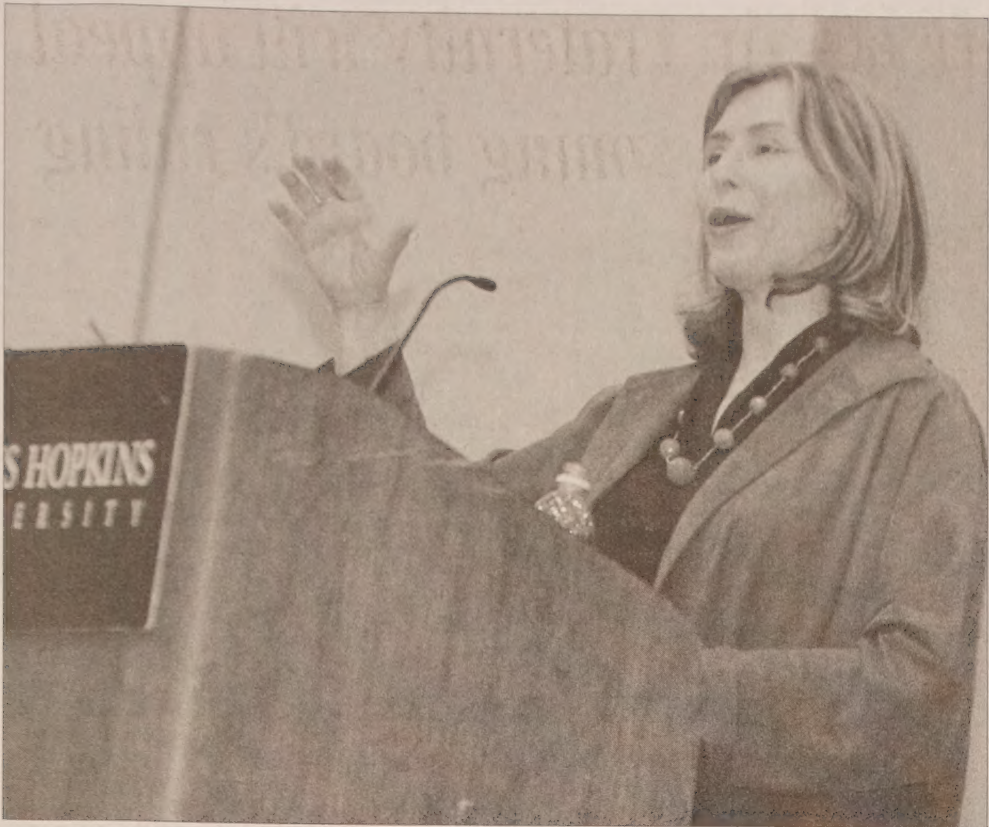
Luke Kelly-Clyne, who is secretary for the current academic year, ran for President unsuccessfully. In addition, Victor Wu, the current Senator of Authorization, was not re-elected.

Lazerowitz affirms that a fair number of incumbents lost due to their disappointing performances this year.



LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

A StuCo sign urges passersby at Spring Fair to vote.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
The annual Foreign Affairs Symposium hosted Azar Nafisi, a human rights activist, best-selling author and visiting fellow at SAIS.

Nafisi promotes cultural dialogue

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this polarization because, she believes, literature plays an important role in one's education.
"Writers do not save us from the tyrannies of government," she stated, "but when we have experienced such brutality that we have lost our humanity, you instinctively want to go back to those deeds that celebrated the individual — the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." She cited Virginia Tech, where her son attends college, as one example of such a tragedy.
Nafisi also stressed that individuals should not rely on their government to guarantee rights to those that have been deprived of them, but should rather look to grassroots movements.
"The struggle is not political, it is existentialist," she stated.

Overall, the student body reaction was overwhelmingly positive.
It was after moving to the United States in 1997, that she wrote her best-selling novel, in which she shares her unforgettable experiences as a woman living and working under the Iranian regime.
"I would never have been able to write this novel in Iran. I feel as if I can communicate much better, in the United States ... that I can say what I want to say, the way I want to say it," she said.
Nafisi is the author of *New York Times* best-seller *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, Nafisi has gained international exposure for her portrayal of women living during Iran's Islamic Revolution.
Born in Iran, she witnessed the Iranian revolution and the subse-

quent rise to power of Ayatollah Khomeini. The severe rules imposed upon women by the new regime caused her to become restless, and she found herself no longer able to teach English literature properly without attracting the scrutiny of the authorities.
In 1995, Nafisi quit teaching, and invited seven of her best female students to secretly attend regular meetings at her house. They studied works including *Lolita*, *Madame Bovary* and *The Great Gatsby*, all of which were considered too dangerous to read in post-revolutionary Iranian society, in an attempt to understand and interpret them from a modern Iranian perspective.
Nafisi is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

ResLife reinforces its flier policies

Rejected posters prompt student groups to question rules regulating advertisements in dorms

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
ends," Fickau said.
The poster designed by the Buttered Niblets included the title of the play which read, "*Sex: a.k.a. Wieners and Boobs*." The Office of Residential Life concluded that the phrase did not clarify that the phrase was indeed the title of the play, and thereby issued its ban.
Fickau explained that while the Buttered Niblets poster featured the line, "A play by Joe Lo Truglio, Michael Showalter and David Wain," there was too much space between these words and the play's title.
Students have expressed frustrations with the limitations posed by ResLife's stringent policies. Earlier in the fall, the Hopkins Organization for Programming was denied permission for a poster advertisement for a play entitled, "*Laff Your Ass Off*."
"I went to get approval and they didn't like the word 'ass' in the title. It's hard enough to get people to come to events. They should give us the benefit of the doubt," senior Scott Rogowsky said.
To meet ResLife's standards, titles with objectionable material as determined by Fickau must have quote marks around them or must have the phrase, "the play," inserted immediately above them.
A look at the list of groups on suspension with ResLife reveals that matters of taste and sensibility are not necessarily what implicate organizations for posting their signs in the dorms. More often than not, according to Fickau, it is the placement of the signs in prohibited areas that leads to organizations being placed on suspension.
ResLife's official Postering/Publication Guide states, "Flyers, posters and notices may be hung on common area bulletin boards only. Anything posted in other locations will be removed

and the group involved will be reported."
The page-long list of suspended groups includes the philanthropic organization Cooking 4 Love and Stepping Stone Ministries.
Still, other certain seemingly risqué advertisements have been given approval by ResLife in the past. Fickau recently endorsed one campus event entitled, "Condom Bingo," justifying her approval by citing an issue of education versus pure entertainment.
"Condom Bingo is an educational program promoting abstinence just as strongly as safe sex, not entertainment. We also take a sensitive and mature approach to our advertisements," she said.
Some students have speculated that ResLife's approach to signs posted in the dorms has become more stringent only recently.
According to Fickau, these ResLife policies have been in place since she assumed her position 10 years ago. However, while the policies themselves have not changed, she contended that their level of enforcement by ResLife has increased markedly.
The increased allowance for dorm-to-dorm access in recent years has allowed for a much more interactive campus experience for students, and what Fickau suggests would amount to increased exposure to each sign that they grant approval for. Fickau explained that this has required ResLife to "become more aware" of the material that is distributed throughout dormitories.
A different standard of suitability applies to what can be posted in the dorms than what may be distributed campus-wide. The constitutional right to free speech protects fliers and publications throughout the campus at large.
Fliers posted last year by the Objectivist Club, for example, featured an image taken from the controversial Danish cartoons of a Muslim man wearing a bomb for a turban. These were permitted on the designated bulletin boards throughout campus, but not in the dorms.
Fickau said that when she considers posters, she decides what is appropriate based on what she thinks students would want to see, or would be comfortable seeing, when they come home at the end of each day. From her perspective, strong political or religious statements, as well as sexually explicit material, are not included in that category.
Rogowsky objected to the multiple rules regulating the placement of posters.
"If it's something that gets students involved in the community, it should be promoted as much as possible. If it's relegated to a corner of the room where no one checks, what's the point?" Rogowsky said.
Groups that are reported usually receive suspensions ranging in length from just two weeks to entire semesters. During their suspensions, these groups are prohibited from posting materials in the dormitories. Repeated violations may result in ResLife's notification of the appropriate authorities that oversee the groups' activities and designate their funding.

"If it's something that gets students involved in the community, it should be promoted as much as possible."

— SCOTT ROGOWSKY, SENIOR

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MEXICAN GRILL

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NEWS

News in Brief

ResNet fails to inform students on overcharges

ResNet, Hopkins' on-campus housing Internet service, has come under fire this past week for neglecting to inform a significant number of students that they were overcharged for their internet in the Fall 2006 semester.

The amount of these excess charges has ranged in value, as a result of, according to new information, two sources of overcharging.

The first source involves ResNet's decision in Fall of 2006 to lower the price of Internet service in the dorms. In the beginning of the 2006-7 school year, ResNet users were paying \$26.50 per month for Internet service in the dorms, for a total of \$238.50 for the whole year.

But in Fall '06, the price was lowered to \$20.00 per month. This meant that some students were overcharged \$58.50, and should have been refunded; however, many were not alerted to this fact.

In addition to this mistake, some people were also charged an additional \$90.00; these students' overall charges amounted to \$328.50 for the year, almost \$150.00 more than they should have been charged.

ResNet did not respond to *News-Letter* inquiries about the cause of the \$90.00 charge on some students' accounts. The student who brought this concern to ResNet's attention claims that when she inquired about the reason for the \$150.00 extra charge on her account, she was told, "There was a problem with an employee who is no longer here."

It is not known at this time how many students were overcharged as a result of either source. It seems, though, that none of the overcharged students were informed of their right to a refund.

There is currently a list in the basement of Garland, at the Tech Support desk, on which students can leave their names, JHED IDs and phone numbers if they think

they have been overcharged. As of Wednesday afternoon, there were 10 names on the list.

— Alexandra Watson

JHU scientists identify potential Malaria drug

Hopkins scientists have discovered a new class of compounds to fight the parasite that causes malaria. The synthetic drugs, known as trioxanes, are effective in preliminary tests in mice.

Trioxanes, which are organic equivalents of compounds such as hydrogen peroxide, release an extraordinarily active oxygen particle known as a free radical. Radicals do extensive damage to cells, especially to DNA.

Peroxide compounds had previously been tested against malaria, but were of limited use because of their rapid action. In contrast, trioxanes appear to last in the body for a longer period of time, eventually killing the parasite.

Gary Posner, a professor in the Department of Chemistry, and Theresa Shapiro, chair of the Department of Clinical Pharmacology at the School of Medicine, describe the work online in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*.

Posner and his team have worked for years to derive a new class of peroxide compounds able to exert more significant clinical effects.

Trioxanes appear to target the malaria parasite in particular by reacting with the iron-containing heme group in red blood cells, which ordinarily carries oxygen and will easily pick up a free radical.

The malaria parasite infects red blood cells. It is transmitted into the bloodstream by infected female mosquitoes when they bite through human skin to feed on blood.

Malaria annually kills between 1.5 million and 3 million people, many in sub-Saharan Africa. The vaccine is years away from clinical trials in people, but these early results are promising.

— Stephen Berger

Cognitive science researchers win \$500,000 grant

An interdisciplinary research project backed by professors from across the departments will be one of the two university-based projects to receive the 2007 Templeton Research Lecture grants which awards up to \$500,000 over the three to four year span of the study.

The research will primarily focus on implications of religion as a cognitive science that leads towards our human perceptions of culture and of the sciences. The project will come in the form of yearly lectures and organized group studies that will bring together both scholars of religion and of science.

The project titled "Evolution, Cognition, and Culture," was chosen by Metanexus Institute to promote progressive bridgings between religion and science. Metanexus has been actively bringing about studies in this field, funding for related research and lectures around the world.

— Cindy Chen

Charles St. sees abortion protests

The heavily trafficked divider on Charles Street was the scene of an active abortion demonstration on Friday that ended with the arrest of a belligerent individual not affiliated with Hopkins.

A non-affiliated pro-life group called Defend Life set up a demonstration called the "Genocide Awareness Project" between McCoy Hall and the Beach. Their demonstration included graphic images of allegedly aborted babies, victims of the Holocaust and the lynching of African Americans.

Soon after they began their demonstration, a number of Hopkins students, both from the



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Defend Life, a pro-life group not affiliated with Hopkins, came to N. Charles St. during Spring Fair, sparking opposition.

group Students for Choice, and others who were not affiliated with any student group, initiated a counter-protest.

One of their signs proclaimed, "Dead babies don't belong on Charles Street." The Students for Choice protesters said that they did not object to the organization's right to be there, but rather they objected to the vivid images that their signs contained.

They objected especially to the presence of the signs given that "there are so many families and children on campus during Spring Fair," according to sophomore Avi Dunn.

At one point, an unaffiliated woman who joined the pro-choice protest slashed one of Defend Life's signs. She fled the scene, but was later apprehended by the Baltimore Police.

— Katlyn Torgerson

Frishberg resigns from fed. board

Ellen Frishberg, director of the

Hopkins Office of Student Financial Services, resigned from her position on a federal rule-making panel Monday, after being asked to step down last week.

Frishberg, who is currently on paid leave from her Hopkins position, let go of her position in committee in the Education that develops financial aid regulations. Margaret Spellings, U.S. Secretary of Education, requested her resignation.

Frishberg was placed on leave by University administra-



COURTESY OF JHU DMM

Frishberg received sums from lender.

— Katlyn Torgerson

No gasoline bills.
No car payments.
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maintenance costs.
No kidding.

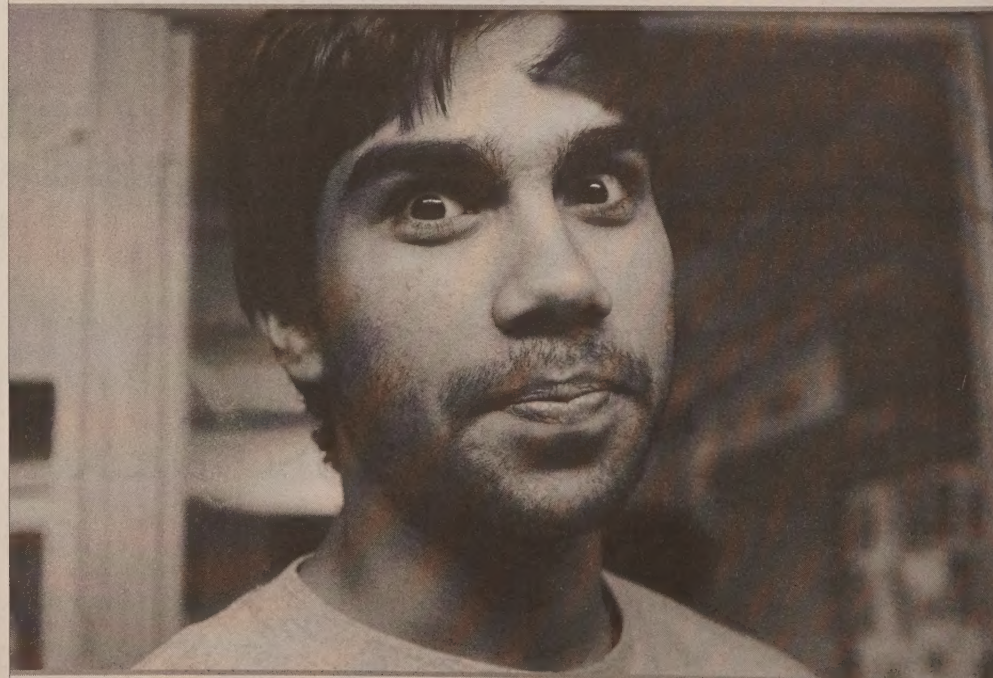
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5th Annual **BLUE JAY** 5K

Race for the Troops
Sunday, April 22, 2007

RACE FOR THE TROOPS

When: Sunday April 22, 10:00 am

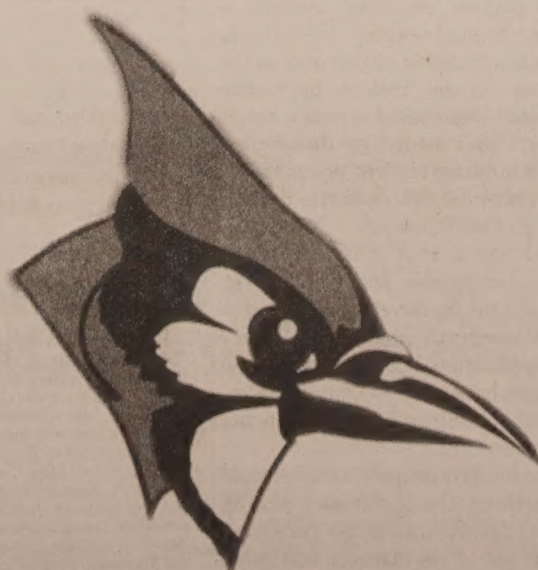
Where: Ralph S. O'Connor Recreation Center

University students receive 50% off registration fee with valid student ID, only \$10!

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or email bluejay5k@jhu.edu*



THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Responding to tragedy

Monday morning, our campus awoke to the news of a tragedy unfolding at one of our peer institutions. The news didn't just hit home because Virginia Tech so strongly resembles Hopkins academically and in the composition of its student body. It didn't evoke feelings of disbelief simply because of Virginia Tech's proximity to Maryland and Homewood. It shocked and saddened us because it affected friends, family and our extended academic community. Virginia Tech's loss was our own.

National news coverage of the massacre has focused its attention on Monday's timeline of events, and whether a swifter response from campus security and police could have saved lives. Other reports probed the identity of the killer, 23-year-old Cho Seung-Hui, who ended the rampage by taking his own life. It is difficult to find answers that explain the final death toll — 33 killed, including Cho — by faulting the response of security and ambulance teams. It is also nearly impossible to find solace by attributing the killer's motivations to a mental illness.

The lack of answers forces us to think about our own safety, the welfare of our peers and the ability of campus security to respond to an emergency. Hopkins students know all too well the reality of tragedy, particularly after the murders of Linda Trinh ('05) and Chris Elser ('05). The administration has since dramatically improved campus security. Some disasters are

simply not preventable, but we are confident that security policies implemented in a prudent and measured fashion are the most effective means of protecting the Hopkins community. This tragedy, though severe, does not warrant draconian attempts to increase campus security.

Cho's emotional troubles also draw attention to the fact that mental illnesses afflict many college-aged students. The shootings demand increased vigilance about the welfare of our peers, but they do not merit stricter mental health policies from the University. Ultimately we need new laws that address the widespread availability of guns in our society. This is not an issue that any academic institution can address on its own.

Virginia Tech's loss, above all, should underscore the importance of community as it encompasses this campus and Hopkins' relationships with its peer institutions. As we extend our condolences to Virginia Tech, we also seek ways to address feelings of loss at home. Hopefully, this process of reflection will make Hopkins a better community, more conscious of its members and more aware of the strength that camaraderie provides us.

Today, our hearts are with the students, faculty and families of Virginia Tech. In the future, we hope that our grief will also strengthen the ties that Hopkins students forge with one another and with the institution we call home.

Phi Psi asks: Whither Hopkins?

As a result of the decision of the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals on Tuesday, Hopkins has lost one of its precious few remaining fraternity houses. Of course, we are extremely disappointed by the decision. The students were railroaded by neighbors who pounced on a technicality in order to purify their area of an annoyance that predated their own residency. City officials were complicit in Phi Kappa Psi's eviction. So was the University.

It is nothing short of shameful that the University never played a role in this process. Both the Tuscan-Canterbury Neighborhood Association and the Phi Psi brothers hoped that the University would weigh in. But the administration persisted in the farcical notion that this matter did not concern them.

Indeed, off-campus housing is not regulated by the University, but Hopkins students do not cease their affiliation with the institution when they leave its grounds (the dozens of yearly mailings seniors will soon begin receiving from the alumni association are proof of that). So long as we are paying more than \$30,000 to go to this school, it is not too much to ask the University to show some support for students wronged by the city and its residents.

Not only did the University let its students down, it damaged its own reputation. This dispute does not reflect well on Hopkins, which showed as much contempt for student life as did the TCNA and its allies in government in pursuing a course of total inaction. If the University does not care about its own students, who will we be able to count on? Surely not Salem Reiner, the Director of Community Affairs. If a matter such

as this one is not within his purview, then what on Earth is? What is the explanation? Weak will? Spite, perhaps?

We realize that the University walks a fine line when it comes to the independence of students. We don't want University officials too involved in our personal lives. But this was not just a house. It was directly associated with an entity that is already regulated by the University. And surely the administration realizes that vibrant Greek life is a resource that adds value to the school by taking the burden of social events planning off the shoulders of the University itself and also serving as an attractive feature for many potential applicants.

Alas, the damage is done, so we must now attempt to do something positive to prevent its happening again. It was grossly unfair and a severe breach of ethics to remove the brothers from their house, but we know that if a similar situation were to occur, the students of Johns Hopkins would once again be left to the whims of money-grubbing politicians, without an advocate or recourse. The best solution appears to be the one supported by both students and the surrounding community.

That, of course, is a designated area for fraternity houses — a fraternity row. We argued for such a resolution on this page last week and we continue to do so because it is a necessary measure for the protection of student welfare. The hole the stalled Olmstead project has left in Charles Village is begging to be filled.

Short of that, a few protests might be in order. Perhaps the Tuscan-Canterbury neighborhood has not yet heard quite enough noise.

The puritans at ResLife

It disturbs us to learn that the Office of Residential Life might be engaging in censorial activities with regard to dormitory flyering. These ads are deemed to contain inappropriate content. Of course, this is not a free speech issue (in the constitutional sense) and the administration has the right to ban material that is genuinely offensive and demeaning. Last year when the Objectivist Club insultingly posted the controversial Danish cartoons of Muhammad, that certainly warranted the exclusion of the posters from the dorms.

However, other situations have arisen in relation to campus comedy groups that concern us. Recently, the Buttered Niblets attempt to advertise their play *Sex a.k.a. Weiners and Boobs* was rebuffed by ResLife. Last October, the HOP experienced similar treatment for a flyer promoting the event "Laff Your Ass Off." Such language should hardly give pause to the 18-20-year-olds who reside in the dorms.

Not only are ResLife's decisions in regard to appropriateness questionable, but also such subjective rulings are made by a single individual, ResLife's director Shelly Fickau. When one person is the arbiter of what is acceptable and unacceptable for students' eyes, fairness and consistency are nearly impossible to achieve.

When questioned about the ResLife sponsored Condom Bingo, Fickau distinguished between programs that are educational in nature as opposed to those that constitute entertainment. We find such a distinction dubious if not altogether

arbitrary. Whether a program is intended to enlighten or delight is irrelevant when deciding what advertisement is appropriate to post. In addition, it is laughable to imply that the organizers of Condom Bingo intended it to be completely devoid of entertainment value.

We suggest that in order to prevent unreasonable exclusion of student flyers, the University's perspective on what content is offensive or vulgar be made explicit. While there is an existing policy available online and in the academic manual, content that is intolerable is not clearly stated. Instead, the policy refers to "pornographic," "harassing" or threatening material. How the Buttered Niblets' or the HOP's flyers could fit within that description is beyond the understanding of we mortals.

While we understand that it is difficult to demarcate what is acceptable and what is not, a clearer policy should be developed. Any disagreement will thenceforth concern the policy itself and not its application. We also recommend that student groups have an opportunity to appeal decisions by the ResLife office if they are not content with the ruling.

Censorship, particularly on questionable moral grounds, is something the University should strive to avoid. Students should be consulted in drafting a new set of regulations that more completely reflect the maturity of a college campus. We need not fear sexual language; indeed to do so seems the most egregious folly.

William Parschalk



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anti-abortion display offensive

A few days ago there appeared at JHU some anti-women's choice groups — at the Spring Fair, and also a large display with pictures of bloody, supposedly aborted, fetuses on Charles Street.

One might ask if the presence of the Ku Klux Klan in white sheets, or other overt white supremacists, have been so tolerated on campus, and directly in front of the University entrance! Yet we forget that for decades now, so-called right-to-life zealots have assaulted and murdered employees at women's clinics, shot doctors to death at work and in their own homes, gassed and bombed buildings and harassed and labeled women murderers if they choose not to continue their pregnancies. The parallel between this terrorism and that of the well-documented Nazi-regime's similar targeting

of women who provided or sought abortions, would seem obvious to any informed, thinking person.

The views and actions of the mostly white, mostly male Defend Life and other such groups reflect (though they will deny it) a hatred of women as a class. Women of any color. But especially women who cannot or who only with difficulty afford to travel across state lines to get an abortion, or whose sole provider for pap smears, prenatal

and other gynecological care has been the clinic she takes three buses to get to, and then navigates a line of screaming picketers before she can enter!

Let us not ignore or fall silent on terrorism directed at women. We must challenge the mentality of those who, out of their insecurity and hatred, attempt to control women's lives.

Ann Hall
Waverly

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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the News-Letter and can not be returned. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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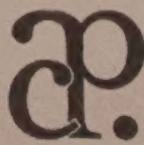
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OPINIONS

Joshua Robinson

In the shadow of the '60s



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

The liberal paradigm is a nearly universal phenomenon in universities today, as it has been since the Vietnam era. However, over time, the voice of dissent has quieted. Having nearly finished my run as an American undergraduate, I wonder why we have become so complacent. Even in a decade defined by political polarization and Iraq, the campus protest seems like an exotic bird. Here at Hopkins, dissent has practically gone the way of the dodo.

Perhaps the real issue — if it's an issue at all — is that the "establishment" has, at least on its face, gone liberal. Whereas university administrations once represented an authority to push back against, today they have enacted policies that accommodate, rather than oppose, the liberal tendencies of their students.

This could go a long way toward explaining why today's student movements tend to be much more about raising awareness about specific issues — Darfur, the death penalty, global warming — than about enacting systematic institutional change. Granted, increased awareness can eventually lead to institutional change, but in a much more subtle way than the mass protests of the late 1960s.

I don't mean to imply that our university should uphold liberal views to the exclusion of any others. One of the fundamental responsibilities of the modern university is to engender free thought. However, being slightly left of center in terms of University policies such as faculty diversity and minority recruitment encourages this variety of viewpoints.

But the strange consequence of the institutionalization of liberalism in our universities is this chilling effect on political activity by students. Today, the few outcasts and rebels who do take

dramatic action to get their points across aren't lefty students. They are campus conservatives purposefully raising the ire of university administrations.

One conservative demonstration that has been replicated at several campuses, including our own, is the "affirmative action bake sale." Conservative student groups charge black students less than white students to demonstrate the perceived injustice of affirmative action policies.

On our campus, the right-leaning student magazine the *Carrollton Record* prints a slate of anti-establishment rablerousers. The *Record's* front page routinely criticizes the administration for suppressing conservatism. Meanwhile, their liberal counterpart, the *Hopkins Donkey*, is as tame and benign as its name would suggest. Perhaps this is an indication that our university has pushed too far to the left in its policies, to the exclusion of the conservative line of thought.

Granted, I base these observations largely on my experience at our notoriously apathetic campus. Had I attended a traditionally politically active college, such as UC Berkeley or New York University, my perception of political action among college students today might be different. Yet I still get the distinct sense that, across the board, the intensity of political action among college students hasn't been this low since the 1950s.

The lack of war protests is explainable. While the rocky course of the Iraq war may recall echoes of Vietnam, at the level of social impact, there is no comparing the two. Without the specter of a military draft hanging over our heads, we aren't galvanized to action. Yes, Iraq is a mess. But there's hardly anyone to disagree with over it.

Fortunately, changes to Hopkins' admissions criteria have targeted activist-minded students of all political leanings, resulting in a slight but noticeable increase in the amount of political

activity on campus. This policy must be continued if we are ever to overcome the apathy problem at Hopkins.

This is my last column after four years writing for this page, and I want to take this final opportunity to thank my readers for their feedback, both positive and critical, and for taking the time to read this page. Even if you do not write, reading the opinions section is a form of political participation in its own right. But I encourage you to pick up the pen. When I was the editor of this page during the 2005-2006 academic year, I was surprised by how difficult it was to recruit opinions columnists — a phenomenon that the present editor confirms has continued.

There should never be a shortage of Hopkins students from all parts of the political spectrum striving to make their voices heard. Inaction may be easier than action, but the latter is far more rewarding.

— Joshua Robinson is a senior International Studies major from Potomac, Md.

Carey Polis

What would a perfect Hopkins look like?

It is only natural that, as graduation grows close, I reflect upon what I did and did not do during my four years here. Thankfully, I have very few regrets, save a few papers that I should have spent more time on. I came in as an intimidated freshman, worried about Hopkins' "cutthroat" reputation. I'm graduating proud of my academic achievements and extracurricular contributions.

After spending four years on this campus, I've seen what Hopkins does well, but also recognize what's missing. I know that no institution can be perfect, but since this is my last column (ever!), I will take this opportunity to imagine an ideal Johns Hopkins:

Academically: A mandatory independent study requirement to encourage students to explore topics that interest them. Enforcement of the \$80 stipend for professors and students to have dinner outside of the classroom. An updated registrar system, equipped with a Web site that doesn't foil students' chances of getting into the classes they want. Major advisors that care about their undergraduates and monitors their progress more closely, holding than just a brief meeting once a semester. Better air circulation in the library. A longer reading period and enforcement of no classes or exams during that period. An improved ACE guide, in which the course evaluation surveys ask questions more pertinent to the courses offered. Access to the registrar's Web site 24 hours a day, not just 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Keep Intersession at least three weeks long so students can take courses, travel, or do research. More electric outlets in all classrooms for laptop computers.

Socially: Mandatory community service requirement that forces students to understand the many problems that plague Baltimore. More enthusiastic cheers from the crowd at lacrosse games. A social calendar that all student groups use to post events. A bigger Shriver. A 24-hour dining area. Sneak-peek movies. Large-scale class unity activities (think Senior Dinner, but more frequent and not always just for food). RAs who are interested in enriching residential life, rather than simply policing it. Continuing the Summer Films series on the Gilman Quad during the fall. More meeting spaces for student groups aside from classrooms. Bigger budget for student groups, especially those that are serving the community in some way.

Miscellaneous necessities: A better fiction section in the library. A full-service post office. Security vans that will pick you up within five minutes, rather than making you wait half an hour. A more user-friendly HopkinsNET. More student interaction with President Brody. A convenience store/pharmacy in Charles Village. A budget to pay for a graduation speaker whom seniors really want to listen to. More accessible advisors in the Career and Counseling Centers. Free student parking options. Free major newspapers — think the *New York Times* — in the Fresh Food Café and Nolan's on 33rd.

What most disappoints me is that I could have worked to make some of my ideas a reality. A university is only as strong as the students in it. We contribute to the vitality of campus life, and help shape the future of this school. Hopkins flourishes not just because of the academic success of its students, but because of their assertiveness, responsibility and patience.

Change comes slowly in an institution as large as Hopkins, but size hasn't stifled student innovation. As I reflect on the progress Hopkins has already made since I entered as a freshman, I know that improvements to student life are within reach. I only hope that future generations of undergrads will continue to strive for improvements to campus life.

In a sense, I'm almost bitter seeing the newly-carpeted AMRs, our improved food service, bigger bookstore, tighter security and a more lively Charles Village. I regret that I'm leaving this university just as it is on the brink of so much positive change. But I'm excited to return to campus for future homecomings.

Hopkins has a history of churning out motivated and intelligent leaders. As long as undergraduates invest real effort into improving their community, that trend can only continue for the better.

It's been quite the ride, Hopkins. Thanks.

— Carey Polis is a senior Writing Seminars major from Bethesda, Md.

Hopkins should pull investments from Darfur

By AARON MARTEL

Johns Hopkins' investments may be funding genocide in Darfur, Sudan. Dozens of peer institutions like Stanford, Brown, the University of California schools, and Amherst College have pulled money out of Sudan in response to the violence there. As a leading institution, Johns Hopkins is in a position to thwart atrocities and save lives in the short run. By adopting a targeted divestment policy, Hopkins can help to maximize Darfuri security while minimizing harm to Sudanese civilians and University finances.

Since 2003 400,000 Darfuris have been systematically killed and millions displaced by their own government. Rape and torture of innocent civilians are weapons in this war. Militias openly attack humanitarian workers. For the first time in history, Congress and the White House have recognized an ongoing genocide as such. Not so in the cases of the Holocaust and Rwandan genocide.

The money trail is well documented. Sudan's military is financed by several dozen foreign energy, construction and oil companies including PetroChina, Sinopec, Petronas and ONGC. Institutions with endowments, like Johns Hopkins, often invest in these companies' stock directly or through third party managers.

Over 70 percent of Sudan's multi-billion dollar oil revenue goes to domestic arms. This foreign investment has enabled the Sudanese regime to carpet-bomb villages, arm the Janjaweed militias and assault aid camps with helicopter gunships. At the same time, little government revenue goes to civilian infrastructure, health or development.

Genocide is not the "social issue du jour"; it doesn't capture the popular imagination like other matters. Understandably, Hopkins' \$2.6 billion endowment can't accommodate the values of interest groups. But genocide "shocks the conscience of mankind," demanding immediate and persistent action from all: government, citizens and the private sector.

When political solutions falter, market solutions are needed. Targeted divestment is one such anti-genocide intervention, and is meant to complement, not replace, humanitarian and diplomatic efforts.

JHU STAND, an anti-genocide coalition, has adapted the Genocide Intervention Network's targeted divestment model for Hopkins. Targeted divestment defines "offending companies" very narrowly: these companies (1) do business with the government of Sudan, (2) impart minimal benefit to Sudanese citizens and (3) have no significant policies on Darfur. Divestment occurs only if companies refuse to change their behavior and equally profitable financial alternatives are available. The costs of divestment are minimal, mostly limited to the transaction costs of reinvesting money.

Economic pressure has already been effective in Sudan. Price is a function of demand; when institutions sell scrutinized holdings, demand and share price fall. Companies respond to the devaluation of their stock by engaging the Sudanese government and ultimately withdrawing. This has already occurred. Canada's Talisman Energy, the German giant Siemens and Swiss ABB have suspended operations in Sudan in response to divestment campaigns. Historically, Sudan has been willing to change its behavior to keep the money flowing.

The Sudan divestment movement can be distinguished from past divestment movements by its narrow focus.

Anti-apartheid divestment during the 1980s took a "blanket" approach, advocating broad sanctions rather than careful withdrawal. The South Africa divestment movement unintentionally harmed black civilians even as it contributed to the end of apartheid. And because many of the divested stocks in the 1980s were valuable blue chip companies, institutions faced considerable losses.

STAND's proposal excludes the civilian economy. Agricultural companies, which employ 80 percent of the workforce, are unaffected. So are providers of consumer goods, medicine, housing, education and humanitarian services.

The Johns Hopkins Board of Trustees responded to the 1980s anti-apartheid movement by divesting from many companies operating in South Africa. If there is historical precedent at Hopkins for a higher-risk intervention, what is preventing concrete action on Darfur now?

On Tuesday, Student Council resolved to call upon the Johns Hopkins Board of Trustees to review its holdings and to divest according to STAND's criteria. Other student organizations are following suit. As students, we have a stake in Hopkins' legacy and global contribution. We appeal for a minimal sacrifice for the suffering people of Darfur.

Improving access to children's healthcare

By ELIZABETH CAUDLE

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, founder of the March of Dimes, wrote in a November 1942 letter, "...nothing is closer to my heart than the health of our boys and girls and young men and young women. To me it is one of the front lines of our National Defense." The U.S. Congress should keep President Roosevelt's words in mind as they consider the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

MCHIP, the Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program, provides health insurance coverage for children and pregnant women who meet income guidelines. In Maryland, about 95,000 children are enrolled in MCHIP, yet 133,000 children remain uninsured. Congress is expected to consider the reauthorization of SCHIP this

year and the March of Dimes believes this is a perfect opportunity to take the following steps to make the program even more effective.

First Congress should provide the resources necessary for states to enroll all eligible children. Today, more than 6 million children rely on SCHIP for their health insurance. But nearly 2 million (about 19 percent) of the 9 million children who are not insured are eligible for SCHIP and yet enrolled.

The National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine has shown that health insurance status is the single most important influence in determining whether health care is accessible to children when they need it.

Second, Congress should allow states to enroll pregnant women who meet the SCHIP income guidelines. Numerous studies have shown that health insur-

ance coverage is essential to ensuring that pregnant women have access to the medical care they need to give their babies a healthy start in life. Currently, states can enroll pregnant women in SCHIP only if they obtain a federal waiver or follow a regulatory approach that fails to cover the scope of clinically recommended mater-

nity care. Congress should amend the SCHIP law to give states the option to enroll pregnant women who meet the program's income guidelines.

Third, Congress should improve access to medical services for children with special health care needs. Under current law, a child must be totally uninsured in order to qualify for SCHIP. Unfortunately many families are left underserved by this arrangement.

A better approach would be to permit families with some private coverage to enroll their child in SCHIP as well. Together

the two plans can provide the scope of benefits that meet their child's medical needs. Because private plans would cover a portion of the health costs incurred by these children, allowing families to combine private and public coverage would make it possible for states to stretch their SCHIP dollars to reach more children.

Fourth, state monitoring and reporting on the quality of care provided to children enrolled in the program should be improved. Monitoring the quality of preventive and chronic care services for the pediatric population would enable parents and policy makers to better assess and, where necessary, improve the quality of care provided through this program.

I call on our U.S. senators and representatives to extend and strengthen SCHIP according to the recommendations outlined above.

As Hopkins students, we are the future leaders of this nation's health care system. We should take it upon ourselves to encourage our nation's leaders to improve on this vital piece of legislation. As President Roosevelt so eloquently said, the health of our children should be a national priority.

Elizabeth Caudle is a sophomore International Studies major from Gainesville, Fl. She is the Northern Region Vice Chair of the March of Dimes National Youth Council.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Court ruling forces EPA action on climate change

In a major victory for environmentalists, the U.S. Supreme Court has finally weighed in on the debate about global warming. On Monday, the Court determined with a 5-4 vote that, under the conditions of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is required to regulate greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

This decision broadens the EPA's role in the fight against global warming, but represents a setback for the Bush Administration.

Carbon emissions have long been tagged as the main culprit behind global warming, but the government has been slow to act. In 1999, a collection of state officials and environmental organizations filed petitions urging the EPA to regulate greenhouse gases.

They argued that greenhouses gases can "reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare," and therefore should be regulated under the Clean Air Act.

The EPA refused, claiming that it lacked the necessary authority and scientific justification to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The case went to court as *Massachusetts v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*.

After an eight-year legal struggle, the Supreme Court has ruled that the EPA must act to control greenhouse gas emissions unless it can prove that they do not contribute to climate change.

This is a decision that many environmentalists have been eagerly anticipating. If the case had gone the other way, the Supreme Court could have undermined efforts across the nation to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Many states have signed on to the Clean Car Act, legislation that allows for regulations on tail pipe emissions, and a few have been challenged with lawsuits. The resulting court cases between large automobile manufacturers and states, including California and Massachusetts, were put on hold in order to hear the Supreme Court's opinion.

The favorable ruling gave these state-led campaigns a cause



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

to celebrate. California attorney general and former governor Jerry Brown called the ruling a "resounding affirmation of California's actions to address global warming."

These state efforts cropped up in response to the lack of federal action towards global warming in the past decade, specifically its hands-off approach to the automotive industry.

President Bush, despite having a acknowledged carbon dioxide as a pollutant and having promised in 2000 and 2004 to regulate emissions, has reversed his stance and has yet to agree with the theory of catastrophic climate change.

Although he called for the United States to "increase the supply of alternative fuels" and "modify fuel economy standards for cars" in his 2007 State of the Union address, President Bush has maintained that the EPA is not permitted to regulate carbon

dioxide emissions.

The Supreme Court has disagreed with this stance on purely legal grounds. The majority opinion found that the Clean Air Act is a "clear statutory command" that the EPA must respect. The Court did not offer a definitive opinion on the issue of global warming.

The dissenting minority, led by Chief Justice Roberts, held that the state of Massachusetts lacked the grounds to sue, since it cannot prove that its "injury" (damage caused by global warming) is directly linked to emissions from motor vehicles.

Environmentalists are playing this decision as a rebuke to the Bush Administration's stance on global warming.

However, James Connaughton, head of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, found it "relatively inconsequential" since "the president is already committed to regulatory action" as seen in his State of the

Union address in January.

Although its importance as a political gesture can be debated, the ruling will have clear ramifications for the automotive industry. The only way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions is to use less fuel.

As a result of this ruling, tighter restrictions on fuel consumption, especially vehicle gas mileage, will continue to be enforced in the near future.

THE ENVIRONMENT ON TRIAL

The Supreme Court has not heard too many cases on environmental policy, but the few decisions it has handed down have had a lasting impact on the ability of the government to protect the environment. Here are a few notable cases:

- *Huron Portland Cement Co. v. City of Detroit* (1960) — In one of the first major lawsuits about industrial pollution, the Court decided 6-2 that Detroit could regulate emissions of dense black smoke from ships docked in port without threatening interstate commerce laws. This case helped establish a precedent for local regulation of environmental health.

- *Train v. City of New York* (1974) — New York City filed suit against the EPA when it failed to provide sufficient funds for federally mandated controls on water pollution. A unanimous court held that the federal government was required to fully support its mandates on state environmental policy.

- *Chevron U.S.A. v. Natural Resources Defense Council* (1984) — The Court upheld a broad interpretation of the Clean Air Act of 1977, granting wide authority to the EPA to regulate pollution. Chevron and other companies had sought to limit the regulations to specific components of a factory, but the Court deemed that an entire factory could be treated as one unit.

- *Babbitt v. Sweet Home Chapter* (1995) — The Secretary of the Interior expanded the interpretation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to include prohibiting harm to the habitat of endangered wildlife, in addition to the law's explicit prohibitions on harming the wildlife itself. The Court upheld this interpretation as consistent with the intentions of the Endangered Species Act.

- *Whitman v. American Trucking Associations* (2001) — The Court determined that the EPA is required to implement regulations on pollutants pursuant to the Clean Air Act, without reference to implementation costs of its regulations. This case established a mandate for environmental controls despite their expense.

- *Bates v. Dow Agrosciences* (2005) — In an appeal arising from regulations on pesticides and insecticides, the Court found that manufacturers can be sued if they inappropriately label their toxic products, resulting in damage to farm crops. This ruling established legal recourse against manufacturers.

- *S.D. Warren Co. v. Maine Board of Environmental Protection* (2006) — The Court mandated that hydroelectric dams, an alternative energy source, must comply with federal water pollution regulations before receiving certification from the government.

Janine Knudsen Environmental Agenda

Protein required for cells to fuse

A report in the current issue of *Developmental Biology* describes a new protein that helps two cells combine into one. Elizabeth Chen and colleagues from the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics discovered the protein, called *Solitary*.

In order for two cells to fuse,

parts of their membranes must be disassembled and new proteins must be trafficked to the fusion site. This is especially important in muscle cells.

Solitary helps with both of these tasks. It marks the membranes where fusion is to take place, and then links up with actin filaments in the cell skeleton to help direct proteins to the site.

The discovery could have implications for the treatment of certain muscle diseases, such as muscular dystrophy, in which neighboring muscle cells break down or improperly fuse.

— S.B.

Marital instability affects children

Sociologists Paula Fomby and Andrew Cherlin have published the results of an extensive national survey of families in the *American Sociological Review*.

Children of parents who have divorced, remarried, or cohabited repeatedly were much more likely to display signs of behavioral and emotional problems. This difficulty in coping with transitions cuts across demographic lines.

— S.B.

Scientists list 100 most endangered mammals worldwide

By STEPHEN BERGER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

A new list of the most critically endangered mammals in the world features dozens of recognizable faces, including the orangutan, blue whale and Bactrian camel.

The list was published last month by a global team of scientists led by the Zoological Society of London and is available at <http://www.edgeofexistence.org>. The researchers set out to rank "Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered" (EDGE) species.

Most lists of endangered species only take into account such factors as total size of the wild population, the severity of threats to their habitats and the likelihood of near-term extinction.

Terms such as "threatened," "endangered" and "critically endangered" are used to describe increasingly dire situations for populations in the wild.

The EDGE list takes into account two additional factors that make the compilation unique.

First, the rankings give prefer-

ence to species that are evolutionarily distinct, or the most biologically different from other living species. Although the loss of any species is a tragedy, the scientists at the EDGE project argue that some species are more unique than others.

For example, there is only one species of giant panda and two living species of elephants. If any of these were to die out, there would be no other animals that could replace them ecologically or for research into their evolutionary origins.

On the other hand, there are 38 species of mice in the wild, many of which are nearly identical in their genetic makeup and ecological niche. If one were to die out, another closely related species could take its place.

The other criterion for EDGE species is the degree to which conservationists are already concerned with the animals. The researchers want conservationists to pay more attention to these underrepresented animals.

Many of these animals are

critical players in their ecosystems with unique evolutionary histories, but without the "cute" or "awesome" factor of more recognizable species.

One example is the long-beaked echidna, which is ranked at number two on the list. This animal, found only in New Zealand, is a close relative of the platypus and is one of only a handful of primitive egg-laying mammals still existent today.

Another is the northern hairy-nose wombat, a marsupial (like their more famous cousins, kangaroos) that burrows underground to hide during the day. Only one small colony remains, consisting of just 115 animals.

Still, it is the more famous animals that attract much of the attention on the list. They include both African and Asian elephants, four species of rhinoceros, and seven different monkeys and apes, including the orangutan.

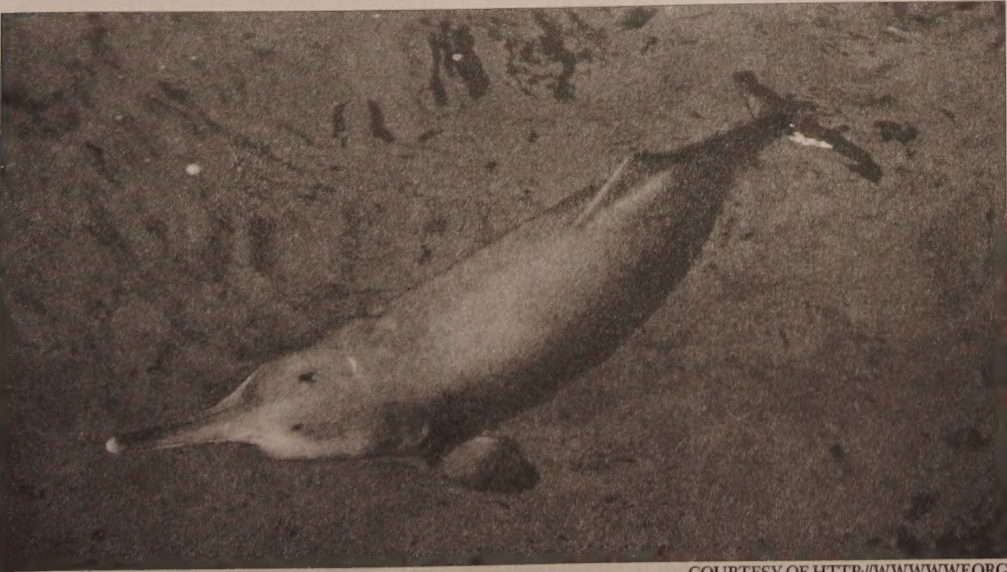
Three out of four freshwater river dolphins are critically endangered, including the Chinese River Dolphin, which occupies

the number one spot on the list. Last year, an extensive survey of the Yangtze river failed to find any remaining specimens.

As a result, the dolphin is believed to be functionally extinct, meaning there are not likely to be enough individuals to sustain a population in the wild.

Another sad standout is the blue whale, the largest animal in the world. Although the population was once over 200,000, current estimates place the number closer to 5,000.

Each of these 100 species represents a unique lineage that will die out forever if significant action is not taken immediately.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.WWF.ORG](http://www.wwf.org)

The Chinese (Yangtze) River Dolphin, or *baiji*, was named the most endangered species in the world by conservationists at EDGE.

Hopkins Research Update

Classifieds

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YOUR NEWS-LETTER

How to care for a goldfish

By Marie Cushing
Graphics by Matt Hansen

Spring Fair is over, but the lasting legacies of the festival still remain — namely, that goldfish you just had to try and win at the booth, because you were always sure your Beirut skills would translate to something productive.

So now you're stuck with this tiny little fish. The closest contact you've had with a goldfish for the past few years has been only with the deliciously-addictive crackers. You can't dump the fish and get away guilt-free, because Hopkins dormitory policy allows you to keep fish. It looks like you're stuck with the thing, so you might as well try to take care of it.

First, clear your mind of everything you've ever thought about goldfish, because for a very tiny fish, there are a lot of misconceptions and falsehoods out there.

The idea that goldfish have a three-second memory span is not true (you can thank *Mythbusters* for that). In fact, goldfish can even learn to recognize the person who is responsible for feeding them.

Think goldfish are stupid? Well, you ignorant and hateful

fish bigot, think again: goldfish are actually quite smart, and can even be trained to navigate through a maze.

Heard that goldfish only live for a couple months? Well, who ever told you that was really bad at keeping their fish alive.

With the proper care and keeping, goldfish can live for up to 10 years. Goldie, the world's oldest goldfish, died in the United Kingdom at the ripe old age of 43.

Now that you're educated in the way of the goldfish, it's time to pick out a habitat for this little critter.

It's important to know that, much like fraternities challenging their pledges to swallow goldfish whole, tiny glass goldfish bowls are a thing of the past. Pet shops recommend at least ten to twenty gallons of water for just one fish.

Why all of this room? Well, not only can goldfish grow to six to eight inches in length, but they are also very dirty and pass waste very easily.

Goldfish are also very social, so giving them a fish to share their tank with as a playmate wouldn't hurt.

As college students living in tiny dorms and cramped apartments, it is hard to find space for a large tank. You might want to think about transferring your fish to a tank at home. It will give your parents something to

do whenever they might happen to find that they are missing you.

If you decide to stick it out and keep caring for your fish at school, you do not have to worry about making sure the water stays a specific temperature.

Goldfish can survive in water even when it is covered in ice, as long as there is enough oxygen in the water for them to breathe. Avoid a quick change of water temperature, because the shock could potentially be enough to kill your fish.

Technically, you should keep your goldfish in a well-lit area because they need a day and night cycle for survival. If you keep your fish out of the sunlight, however, it will turn an albino-worthy shade of white.

A major issue in goldfish care is food. Feeding a goldfish takes finesse; make a mistake and you could kill your precious Nemo.

When it comes to eating, goldfish have absolutely no self-control whatsoever — simply give them food, and they will keep eating until their stomachs cannot handle the contents. This has led to countless horror stories and traumatized childhoods involving fish found belly-up because careless owners continued to feed them.

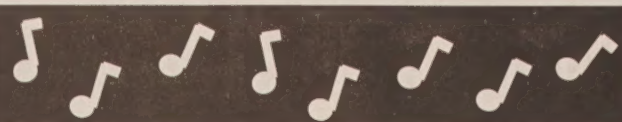
Keep track of how often you feed your fish. Usually once a day should suffice.

A good, if gross, indicator of how well you are feeding your fish is to check their waste. It should be about the same color as the food you feed them. If it is in long strings that trail from their tail end, you are feeding your fish too much.

Food for goldfish usually comes in two forms — flakes that dissolve fairly quickly, or pellets that sink slowly to the bottom. The pellets are a good way to monitor how much food your fish is eating, and you can easily remove uneaten pellets.

Another common mistake that goldfish-owners make is excessive touching of their fish.

Stroking your fish (which sounds like it should be a euphemism for something dirty, but isn't), however, will cause it to lose a natural coating on its skin that protects it from any bacteria that gathers in the water.



YOUR tracks

Treadmill tracks

Summer is just around the corner, and what does that mean? It's swimsuit season, and the months scarfing down whatever food you can find and pounding back a six-pack after the latest lacrosse game have left their mark. Want a rocking body to show off to the hotties on the beach or that attractive lifeguard? You've got to hit the treadmill and weight room at the gym. Need music to decrease the pain of working out? We've got *Your Tracks*.



The dancers from the video for Eric Prydz's "Call on Me" work up a sweat.

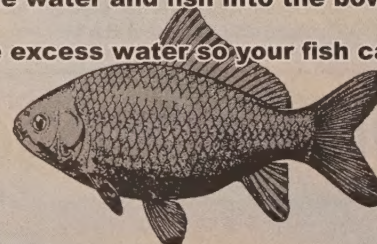
"When You Heard You"	The French Kicks	"Go Go Gadget Hospital"	Gnarls Barkley
"Woman Trouble"	Artful Dodger	"Sure Shot"	Beastie Boys
"Broken Up A Ding Dong"	The Beta Band	"Get Me Bodied"	Beyoncé
"Holding Out For A Hero"	Bonnie Tyler	"Hungry Like A Wolf"	Duran Duran
"A Little Respect"	Erasure	"Call On Me"	Eric Prydz
"Lady"	Modjo	"Genius of Love"	Tom Tom Club
"Apache"	Sugarhill Gang	"She's A Bitch"	Missy Elliott
"Fire"	Joe Budden	"Banquet"	Bloc Party
Cool Down Track:	"Pick Up Your Phone"	The Notwist	

"You can't, you won't and you don't stop"

compiled by Marie Cushing

How to Clean Out a Dirty Goldfish Bowl

- Fill a water bottle with enough water to fill your bowl.
- Let water sit overnight so any contaminants can evaporate.
- Secure your sink's drain stopper and fill the sink about halfway.
- Slowly pour the dirty water and your goldfish into the sink.
- Let your fish enjoy a few moments in the sink while you rinse out its bowl.
- Pour half of the bottle of clean water into the rinsed bowl, and the other half into a sizeable plastic bag.
- Gently help your fish back into the bowl by maneuvering it into the opening of the plastic bag.
- Slowly pour the water and fish into the bowl.
- Pour out some excess water so your fish cannot jump out!



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SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
SAM SCHRUM, WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Freshman phenom is Schrum-diddlyumptious

By MARY DOMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

If you want to tell her anything, go ahead and tell her she plays like a girl. For freshman attack Sam Schrum, this can only be taken as a compliment. Schrum's been playing with the boys ever since she was young. She played a variety of sports in elementary and middle school. Only in high school did she finally settle to focus on lacrosse. "Actually soccer was my favorite sport," she said. "Once I got to high school, I was like, 'Oh, I'm better at lacrosse.' I just stuck with it." And though she might have played better than the boys — "I was always a little tomboy" — she's always known that her real power lies in herself and her girlfriends.

These friends include her two sisters and mother, who Schrum said have supported her more than anyone else throughout her career. Her older sister, Naria, currently plays lacrosse for Frostburg State in Maryland. This example led Schrum to start thinking about playing college ball. Schrum, it seems, has had a similar affect on her younger sister, Megan. This sophomore in high school has already committed to play for the Blue Jays in 2009.

Schrum keeps her family close in heart and close to home. The Schrums live in a suburb outside of Baltimore. Now that she's moved to Hopkins, Schrum's found that she's actually become closer with her sisters, especially Naria. "When we get together, we're very compatible. We'll go out together a lot. It's easier for me to relate to her." As for her younger sister, Schrum said, "As Megan's getting older, we're getting closer too. I'll go watch her games and try to see her for a bit." Together, the three "just aren't typical sisters that fight." Schrum's mother has also nurtured her lacrosse career. In high school, Schrum and her mother would travel almost every weekend to travel lacrosse tournaments with current teammate Brett Bathras and her mother. "We would travel everywhere to-



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

gether. It was that whole mother-daughter thing."

Schrum's getting used to traveling with more than just Bathras and their moms, though. Now that she's a Blue Jay, Schrum couldn't be

VITAL STATISTICS

Year: Freshman
Major: Undecided
Position: Attack

Hopkins Highlights:
Schrum's scored 19 goals in her first season, placing her second on the team.

happier about extending her lacrosse family to include her teammates and coaching staff here at Hopkins. When deciding to come here over Loyola, she said, "What set me over the edge was the coaching staff." And since then, she's only

gotten more comfortable in the Blue Jay nest. "Once regular season started, I really clicked with all the girls. My teammates have been nothing but helpful with the transition from high school to college."

Apparently, Schrum's willing to help out her teammates as well. "I try to be a support player. If I don't score, I'm not mad about it. I'm content with creating space for my teammates or assisting." On Saturday's game again st Virginia, Schrum had an unusual game without any goals. She didn't seem bothered by this at all; rather, she even said the vic-

tory was the highlight of her season thus far. "I was just so content with how the team played so well. I didn't want to go score just to improve my own personal stats."

Not to say that her statistics need much improvement. Currently, Schrum has scored 19 goals in only 13 games. She's also ranked second on the team for points (26) and assists (7). She's started in every game, the lone freshman playing attack alongside three senior Blue Jays. "She's had a breakout freshman season. I'm so excited to see what she can do for us over the next four years," teammate Erin O'Boyle said. The popular magazine *Inside Lacrosse* is also eager to see Schrum's future. Along with freshmen Bathras and Angela Hughes, Schrum's name fell under "Players to Watch."

"At first, I wasn't sure what was going to happen. I was never sure how much playing time I would get," she admitted. "I guess it just fell into place for me." Her secret? "I just work hard and do my best."

Schrum carries this matter-of-fact attitude on and off the field. "I'm very comfortable in my own skin. I don't try to be somebody that I'm not. I'm who I am, and I don't really care what people think about me." Perhaps this is what caught the eye of Schrum's current romantic interest, sophomore men's lacrosse player Matt

Drenan. "She's definitely a type-A personality," Drenan said. "She's an individual."

Though some girls may be intimidated to date an older Hopkins men's lacrosse star, the individualist shrugs it off like no big deal. "Our relationship is very mutual," she said. "Sometimes we fight ... but I usually win." And though she claims she's "no typical girly-girl," she admits to a few weaknesses. One of which she and Drenan share on weekday mornings.

"Little Mermaid cartoons. We like to watch those together."

And like the little mermaid, Schrum values her many sisters above anything else. "Having my teammates is like having 20 other sisters. My favorite thing about the sport is just being a part of a group of girls who love the sport as much as I do."

Toss the training wheels:
club cycling gets serious

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
people who are in charge of running the team, getting the team together, taking care of all our travel arrangements, and getting our registration; it's a huge, huge commitment, and it's on every racer's part," Smitz said.

The team's commitment was exemplified as Hopkins made the trip down to Virginia Tech on April 7. The weather in Blacksburg, Va., on Easter Sunday was far from ideal cycling conditions: 28 degrees with 15 mph gusts rolling from the Virginia hills. It was to be a struggle against some of the top-ranked teams in the cycling circuit, but Hopkins persevered. The men's and women's cycling teams fought the elements to finish with one of their top performances of the season. Nathan Coleman placed 10th in the Men's A division of 29 cyclists with two primes of third and two primes of fourth. In the Men's C division, sophomore cyclist James Robbins finished eighth in the field of 32 with primes of second and fourth. Hopkins' performance boosted their ranking in the Conference to third, fueling their undying quest for a Conference Championship.

Despite the cycling teams' outstanding performance, they often pedal in the shadows, relatively unnoticed by the Hopkins com-

munity. Among Hopkins varsity sports, athletes that don't pick up a lacrosse stick are generally not recognized for their achievements. Even on the national level, the only cyclist whom most people recognize is the legend: Lance Armstrong. "Cycling really isn't big in America at all; it's more of a European thing. Once you try it though, and you're flying along down a country road at 40 miles an hour, you know, it's a lot of fun just to get that chance," Robbins said. "I always wanted to be involved with cycling, mainly because of the Tour de France."

Despite the team's full-fledged commitment to the sport, spirits are light among the Hopkins cyclists when they're off the track. The cycling team's web roster is not full of inflated statistics or achievements, but information such as "Weapon of Choice," (Aegis tridents, Brownies) and the undying question of the ages: "Coke or Pepsi." They joke amongst themselves as they step up onto their bikes. They laugh as they strap on their helmets. Though the team is lighthearted and fun-loving, all smiles fade as the rubber of the wheel rests against the starting line. Eyes focused, they set their gaze to horizon, prepared to exert every last ounce of energy to chase it.



COURTESY OF JONATHAN SMITS
Grad students John Lian and Peter Bolster are poised on their pedals at NC State.

Lady Jays put UMBC Retrievers to sleep

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
Jay goal of the period, conquering the net for the 50th time this season. In the process, Key extended her point streak to 63 consecutive games — the longest active streak in Division I lacrosse history.

From that point on, Virginia was only able to pull to within two goals. A four-goal barrage from the Jays in the middle of the second period was enough for the beleaguered Hopkins defense to work with, holding Virginia to just nine shots in the half.

The Hopkins defenders didn't

need to work as hard on Wednesday against UMBC, as the Retriever defense was no match for the Blue Jays.

Seven different players contributed towards the 15 goals. Despite shooting under .360 in the game, the women fired off an astounding 42 shots, enough to make up for the 12 saves by the UMBC goalies and another dozen missed shots.

Twenty minutes into the first period, UMBC managed to tie it at 4-4. For the remainder of the game, however, the Retrievers miserably trailed the Jays, who

whipped up seven uninterrupted goals that stretched 15 minutes into the next period.

Hopkins continued to score in packs, tacking on a five-goal flurry initiated by Key and capped off by sophomore midfielder Gina Maranto. The goal is Maranto's second of the season, as she rebounds from a season-ending injury in 2006.

Up by nine with five minutes left on the clock, the Lady Jays could breathe a collective sigh of relief with a comfortable lead over the Retrievers.

After navigating a rough patch of games in March and early April, the Jays seem to finally have things under control. The UMBC and Virginia victories are just what the Blue Jays need before facing the defending Division-I champion Northwestern this Friday.

"Northwestern is another huge game for us. Even bigger than Virginia," freshman attack Sam Schrum said.

"One thing I feel good about is my team never gives up and plays with a lot of heart and spunk. I love that," head coach Janine Tucker said.

With their record currently standing at 6-1 at Homewood field this season, the girls hope to continue chalking up victories. The squad is one win shy of assuring themselves their 21st consecutive winning season.

"After this week of preparation, I think Friday night is going to be a dog fight," said Walsh.

Make sure to tune in and watch the "dog fight" this Friday at 6:00 p.m. as Hopkins takes on the Wildcats at Northwestern.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Junior midfielder Lauren Schwarzmann drives upfield after recovering a ground ball.

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SPORTS

Baseball undefeated against Centennial rivals

New “bash brothers” Rob Sanzillo and Rob Pietroforte are making mince meat out of conference competition (11-0) this year

By ZACH GOODMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Houston Astros had the Killer B's (Jeff Bagwell, Craig Biggio, Lance Berkman, Derek Bell). The Oakland A's had the Bash Brothers (Jose Canseco and Mark McGwire, now more widely known for infamous reasons). The New York Mets have the Car-loses (Beltran and Delgado).

The Hopkins Blue Jays have the Robs.

Senior catcher and co-captain Rob Sanzillo and junior center fielder Rob Pietroforte are the major forces behind the best of-ense in the Centennial Confer-ence. The pair were instrumen-tal this past week as the Jays brought their win streak to eight and maintained their undefeat-ed conference record. Hopkins — ranked No. 19 in the nation — took all five of their games, outscoring their opponents 54-23 to beat Catholic and Centennial foes Gettysburg, Ursinus (twice) and Dickinson. Sanzillo and Pi-et-roforte are on the same team, sure; but do they compete against one another?

“At the end of the day, I want him to do well and he wants me to do well,” the diplomatic Pi-et-roforte said. “All we care about is winning ball games.”

“We bring different things to the team,” Sanzillo said. “We compliment each other nicely.” Not quite what this reporter was looking for. More prodding was in order.

The Robs are typically paired together in the middle of the line-up, which must be a scary sight for opposing pitching. Here's where they were as of April 16. Go ahead, Centennial Conference, pick your poison. Would you like to tangle with Sanzillo's league-leading .461 average or Pietroforte's .407? Pietroforte's 33 RBI (good for sec-ond in the conference) or Sanzil-lo's 31 (third)? Sanzillo's 33 runs scored and five round-trippers (both tops)? Pietroforte's .765 slug-ging percentage (second in the league)? Sanzillo's .571 on-base percentage (again tops in the Cen-tennial)? This is getting exhaust-ing. They've got to know they're jockeying for best in the confer-ence, right?

“He hits for more power. I run better than he does,” Sanzillo said.

“We joke about [our offense],” Pietroforte said. “For example, he'll be like, ‘You hit a home run



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Junior left fielder John Solomon leans in to snatch a fly ball vs. Ursinus. He later drove in the winning run to cap a 4-3 victory.

yesterday, I'm going to hit two today.” Getting warmer, but not there yet.

Pietroforte's mashing was on display on Tuesday against Dickinson. The junior smacked two triples en route to a five-RBI performance and a 10-2 demolition of the Red Devils. One Jay Pietroforte drove in was — guess who? — Sanzillo. The win was Hopkins' eighth in a row, making them 11-0 against the Centennial Conference, good for first place.

The Jays also put on a clinic on the other side of the ball. Ju-nior right-handed pitcher Ryan Kuhlman continued his ace-like performance, throwing seven frames of five-hit ball while fan-ning six and allowing one earned run. He lowered his team-lead-ing ERA to 2.76 and is now tied with Gettysburg's Chris Liegel for most wins in the conference with six.

“Our pitching has been the deciding factor on this run,” Pi-et-roforte said. “When our pitch-ers get the job done, it takes the pressure off our hitters.”

Sanzillo accounted for “only” one run and one RBI against Dick-inson, but he earned that breather after spending the week putting on a show for the major league

scouts that have been watching him. He went 3-5 in the night-cap of the Jays' Saturday double-header against Ursinus, scoring twice and driving in three to lead Hopkins to a 13-8 victory. Plus he delivered a key RBI in the 4-3 day game victory over the Bears, the closest conference game thus far. He also swatted another three hits against Catholic in a 19-9 Hopkins win, again driving in three and scoring once. Quite a display. What do you think about it, Rob Pietroforte?

“I'm better, you know that. Come on,” he said. “Rob [Sanzil-lo] and I both know I'm the better ballplayer.”

Your response, Mr. Sanzillo? “[Pietroforte] came in as a catcher and the only way he could make it in this program was to switch to the outfield,” he said. “I don't know what that means, though.”

Gentlemen, we have liftoff.

So Sanzillo the catcher and Pi-et-roforte the center fielder most certainly compete. But they also agree on a few things, specifi-cally about this weekend's key doubleheader against Franklin & Marshall, who are only a game short of first with an 11-2 record in the Centennial Conference.

“These are the two big games. If we win those we basically clinch the conference,” Sanzillo said.

“Obviously this is our biggest series of the season,” Pietroforte added.

Friendly needling aside, San-zillo, Pietroforte and the Jays will be looking for blood against the Diplomats, the team that has tak-en the conference title from the Jays in upset fashion for the past two years. Hopkins closed out a series sweep against Gettysburg win an 8-1 victory last Friday, leaving F & M, Haverford and a weak Muhlenberg squad as the only conference opponents left to play. A sweep this Saturday in Lancaster, Pa., will all but lock up home field advantage throughout the Centennial Conference Tour-nament for the Jays.

Oh, and the Robs also agree on one more main point, which is instrumental to their success and completely relevant to baseball.

“[Sanzillo] will admit that I'm better looking,” Pietroforte said.

“[Pietroforte] is definitely bet-ter looking, I'll give him that,” Sanzillo said. But who has the better-looking swing? Maybe we're better off not asking.

The Jays come home for a twice-postponed doubleheader versus Muhlenberg on Sunday. The teams will take the field at 12:30 p.m.

W. Tennis looks scary against Green Terror

By PASHA HADIDI
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Hopkins tennis has kept its momentum rolling on through another week. Both the men's and women's teams racked up another two wins, rolling over teams from Franklin & Mar-shall College and Bryn Mawr in shutout victories. The men's and women's teams from Washington College suffered similar fates, falling to the Blue Jays in near-shutout losses.

The men's team is currently ranked No. 21 in the nation, and this most recent pair of success-es puts them on an eight-match winning streak.

First on the slate for the men was Washington, who fell to Hopkins 8-1. Washington suf-fered from the loss of their top player, another strike against what until the past two years has been the best tennis program in the Centennial Conference.

“Washington was always the team to beat in the conference,” head coach Chuck Willenborg said.

The men then squared off against Franklin & Marshall Col-lege, hailing from Lancaster, Pa. The Diplomats, though, were not so well received, and probably left wishing for a sanction to be slapped on future Hopkins ten-nis match-ups.

And for good reason: they also left on the receiving end of a 9-0 drub-bing.

The match started out strong with Hopkins' dou-bles performing well. Out of the three doubles matches played, the Jays secured

wins in, well, three. Junior cap-tain Rafael Roberti and his dou-bles partner junior Matt Naftilan set the bar high from the start, with their fourth straight win and a score of 8-1. In singles play, freshman David Maldow also continued his dominance, drop-ping only a single game in his match against Franklin & Mar-shall's first singles player, Benja-min Michelman. From there, the second and third doubles teams and the singles players all picked up their own wins, pushing Hop-kins to its sound victory.

Maldow's victory over F & M's Michelman — his 15th win of the season — set a new record for

single-season wins. The previous record of 14 was formerly held by seven different players.

But the women's team was not to be outdone. The Lady Jays kept up their high-caliber profile with triumphs over Bryn Mawr and Washington Colleges, yet also sus-tained a deflating defeat by Mary Washington. The win over Wash-ington on April 10 was a showcase of Blue Jay talent. Hopkins enjoyed a string of wins from sophomore Brittany Matava, freshman Anita Bhamidipati, senior Becky Busch, freshman Amanda Schubert, junior Tanya Gulnik and fresh-man Ellen Berlinghof. Matava and sophomore Debbie Blass also barely lost a tight match, 7-9, as first doubles partners.

Ranked No. 15 in the coun-try this week, the women's team then moved on to face a tough (and 10th-ranked) Mary Washington team in Fredericks-burg, Va. While the ladies from Hopkins managed to come out of doubles play trailing only 2-1, singles play proved to be a tougher beast to tame. The match ended 3-6 in Mary Washington's favor, with singles wins contrib-uted by Matava and Bhamidipati. The loss was assuaged by the fact that Mary Washington has been ranked in the top ten for the du-ration of the season.

“None of us were too discour-aged by that match. We are just ex-cited that we finally are getting the chance to play teams that are ranked so high,” Mata-va said.

Willen-borg was also proud of Hopkins's

performance. “Even though we lost the match, we really battled back,” he said.

Snapping a nine-game win-ning streak was not an easy thing for the team to swallow, but as shown by their comeback match against Bryn Mawr Col-lege just three days later, they put the loss pretty far behind them. The Jays were in tip-top shape for their blowout victory. Singles and doubles entrants alike didn't drop more than one or two games in almost every match, let alone drop an en-tire set. This performance led to another easy shutout for the women.

Rabil scores second game-winning goal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
yet to score a goal in his career, put home two consecutive goals in a five-minute span in the second quarter. Soon after, Byrne followed up with a goal of his own, his 14th, putting Hopkins up 4-2 at halftime.

Walker's emergence as a scor-ing threat was welcomed with wide-open arms by the team, which has been looking for an of-fensive spark in recent weeks.

“The way Austin came out in the second quarter was a real big boost for our team,” senior mid-fielder and team captain Brendan Skakandi said. “He stepped up and really gave us a huge lift.”

Still, Hopkins was up by only a pair of goals entering the third quarter, and Maryland came back quickly. After three straight goals by the Terps, Hopkins trailed 5-4, with the ball seeming to bounce

Maryland's way on every posses-sion.

Nevertheless, Huntley, who had one of his best games as a Blue Jay, put a stop to Maryland's scoring barrage with his second goal of the season with six min-utes left in the quarter. Soon af-ter, sophomore midfielder Brian Christopher added a goal of his own, giving the lead right back to Hopkins, 6-5.

Whether at College Park or at Homewood, Maryland almost al-ways has given Hopkins a rough time, and Saturday was no dif-ferent. After Huntley scored his third of the game early in the fourth quarter to give Hopkins a two-goal lead, the Terps re-bounded minutes later with a pair of goals that tied the game, 7-7, sending it into overtime.

“Maryland is a quality team, and we knew we were not going to shut them down for 60 minutes,” senior goalie Jesse Schwartzman said.

Al-ready having lost the game's mo-men-tum, the Blue Jays almost lost the game as well, less than 30 seconds into overtime. S c h w a r t z -man's pass to junior mid-fielder Matt Blocket was intercepted by Maryland's senior midfielder Ryan Clarke. After dishing the ball off to

fellow senior midfielder Thomas Alford and getting it back soon after, Clarke fired on goal but missed, once again giving the Blue Jays new life.

Revitalized, Hopkins did not err again. Only seconds later, ju-nior midfielder Paul Rabil shot the ball past the reach of Mary-land goalie Brian Phipps. It was his eighth of the season and his second overtime game-winner of the year. Given Maryland's op-portunity to end the game and possibly the Blue Jays' champi-onship contender status, Rabil's goal may have been the team's biggest of the season.

“The beginning of overtime seemed like a bad dream, but we got a bit lucky when Maryland mishandled the pass,” Skakandi said. “It was an unbelievable shot by Paul to end it, and it was a ma-jor boost for the team [too.]”

“This win was huge,” Byrne said. “After three straight losses, this was a game that we needed to win, and fortunately we came out on top.”

Those three losses marked the first time since 1990 that Hopkins had lost three games in a row and was, to say the least, cause for alarm among the team. However, The Blue Jays responded well on Saturday, overcoming both the weather and a tough Maryland team.

The Blue Jays will try to build on the win against Maryland as they face off at home against Navy in the annual Homecoming game this Saturday. Although Navy is consistently highly ranked, the Midshipmen have lost 32 con-secutive games to the Blue Jays, dating back to 1974, and Hopkins hopes to continue that streak, ex-pecting one of the biggest crowds of the season. The game starts at 3 p.m. at Homewood Field.

Steeplechase records fall at Messiah Inv.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

As for the field events, freshman Krystina Laucik placed fifth in the shot put with a distance of nine meters. Meanwhile, junior Chantel Priolo placed eighth in the javelin and 10th in the discus. In the pole vault, freshman Megan Wei tied for fourth place.

“I think as a whole we did about where we expected,” fresh-man Jordan Litner said. “It's just another meet to help prepare us for conferences which are the first week of May.”

For the men's team junior Tristan Thomas carried the leader's torch by placing third in the 100-meter dash in a time of 11.14. Thomas also placed sixth in the 200 meters with a time of 22.95. Freshman James Walker followed Thomas in the 200 me-ters, placing seventh with a time of 22.98.

The 4x100 relay had a season best performance with a time of 43.79. The team consisted of senior Jason Dubyoski, freshman Pierre Hage, Thomas and Walk-er. Freshman Graham Belton placed third in the 1500 meters race with a time of 4:05.68.

Out in the field, junior Matt Smith placed third in the high jump. The men's team's strongest member — sophomore Peter Li — scored in two events, placing third in the shot put and sixth in the discus throw. Also of note, sophomore Matt Trachtenberg placed fourth in the pole vault.

In the 400 meters, freshman Gordon Mack placed seventh with a time of 52.09. Nate Sotuyo broke the freshman record for the 800 meters, placing fifth with a time of 1:59.19.



COURTESY OF SAM OLESKY
Sophomore Samantha Schneider hops over the daunting hurdle in the steeplechase.

Junior James Bronson placed fifth in the 1500 meters while Dubyoski also finished fifth but in the 400-meter hurdles. The 4x800-meter relay team placed fourth.

In the distance races, sopho-more Doug Karlsberg placed sixth in the steeplechase and senior Justin DeAngelis placed seventh in the 10,000 meters. Michael Yuan finished eighth in the 5,000 meters.

At the small team meet in West Chester, several distance runners worked on their times and placed

in their events. Sophomore Emma Hiza placed second in the 1500 meters with a time of 5:11.66. Senior Jaci Clauss followed her in the same event placing sixth. For the men, sophomore Geoff Nunns and junior Pat Brandon placed third and fourth respec-tively in the 1500 meter race with times of 4:16.47 and 4:16.74. Senior Jason Chiang and junior Andrew Lewis placed seventh and eighth in the same race.

The track team's next meet is on April 20 for the Widener Invi-tational.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Junior attack Kevin Huntley celebrates after a crucial score.

SPORTS

You GOTTA See This!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UINvFNe6LA4>

It looks like Latra Collick of Newberry College is going down after his opponent grabs his leg. But Collick has other plans — plans which require a stunning feat of acrobatics for an amazing reversal.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY

Baseball vs. Messiah 3 p.m.
M. Tennis vs. Haverford 4 p.m.

FRIDAY

Baseball vs. Dickinson 3:30 p.m.
W. Lacrosse vs. Northwestern 6 p.m.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Junior midfielder Paul Rabil scores the game-winning overtime goal against in-state rival Maryland in a dramatic 8-7 road win. The Jays broke a three-game losing streak.

Crosstown champs: Jays top Maryland Terps

By MICHAEL GLENWICK
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Coming off of three consecutive losses, two of which were at home, the Hopkins men's lacrosse team was looking for a big win to get back on the right track. On Saturday, the team had a golden opportunity to do so, when they squared off against their in-state and historical rival University of Maryland Terrapins. It was

anything but easy, but the ninth-ranked Blue Jays managed to pull off a minor upset in only their third game away from Baltimore this season, defeating the seventh-ranked Terps 8-7. The win lifted the Jays above .500, to a record of 5-4.

The first quarter was, depending on one's perspective, either

a defensive showdown or an example of poor offensive play. The two teams combined for a mere eleven shots and netted only two goals total for a 1-1 score at the end of the quarter. The Blue Jays' lone goal came with only nine seconds remaining, when junior attack Kevin Huntley tallied his seventh of the season.

Part of the reason for both team's lackluster scoring in the first quarter was a wet field that

made plays harder to complete. Although it took some getting used to, the two teams eventually were able to adjust to the less-than-ideal playing conditions and played through the rain.

"The rain really affects the way your stick throws, so sometimes games like [Saturday's game] are a little sloppy early, which was definitely the case against Maryland," senior attack and team captain Jake Byrne said. "Once we got used to it, though, it was not really a factor."

After Huntley's goal, the Blue Jays appeared to have turned the corner against Maryland, which had two recent big wins against North Carolina — to whom Hopkins had lost a few weeks earlier — and Navy, whom Hopkins plays this Saturday at home. Sophomore midfielder Austin Walker, who before last week's game against Duke had

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W. Lax notches major upset vs. UVa

By ALEXANDER IP
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

A quick turnaround from an emotional loss at Vanderbilt University was no problem for the women's lacrosse team. The Lady Jays returned home and after three day's rest defeated the UMBC Retrievers by a score of 15-9 on Wednesday.

The victory was followed up by a spectacular Saturday afternoon performance that brought down the No. 5 ranked Virginia Cavaliers 12-9.

After a loss to UVA in the first round of postseason play in 2005, the girls were finally able to exact their revenge on the Cavaliers.

To add to the hype, the Jays were a mere 2-5 against nationally ranked teams this season and the Virginia win will supply the much-needed momentum that has eluded the team for the entirety of their 2007 season.

"The UVA win has definitely gotten everyone pumped up," red-shirt senior attack Sarah Walsh said.

"UVA is a very good team all around and we came into the game very prepared. Our coaches did a great job of

breaking down the [Cavaliers] and their weaknesses."

Virginia also didn't help their own cause, allowing Hopkins to exploit their 13 turnovers. In what seem to start as a back-and-forth affair, the Lady Jays would ultimately go on to take an 8-4

lead at halftime.

Scoring in the first half was Walsh and junior midfielders Kadie Stamper and Lauren Schwarzmann each contributing two goals apiece. Senior attack Mary Key scored the last Blue

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SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Senior attack Mary Key punishes the Cavalier defense with her lightning quickness.

INSIDE

A tale of two Robs: Hopkins heroes

Junior Rob Pietroforte and senior Rob Sanzillo have pushed each other to lead their baseball team to a flawless conference record. But maybe they've pushed too hard. Page A11.

Maldow sets single-season wins record

As the men's (No. 21) and women's (No. 19) climb the D-III rankings, many of their Centennial Conference foes (Washington, F&M, McDaniel) are being brutally victimized. Page A11.

Athlete of the Week: Schrum plays like a girl

An awfully good one, that is. Freshman attacker Samantha Schrum's breakthrough season came earlier than expected (19 g, 7 a) and now opponents have another scorer to fear. Page A10.

The Club Hub

Tour de Hopkins: campus cyclists live for the ride

By DEMIAN KENDALL
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Thousands of eyes were glued to television sets when Lance Armstrong won his seventh straight Tour de France. It represented the pinnacle of athletic achievement, sheer dominance in one of the most physically demanding sports.

When the Hopkins Club Cycling team suits up and hits the streets, they are not afforded the publicity, the fame, or the glory of even a varsity sport. However, with their particular sport, the line between varsity team and club team is blurred to where it is almost indistinguishable.

The cycling team never takes a day off. They travel everywhere from North Carolina, to Pennsylvania to the Midwest, competing almost every weekend from Friday to late Sunday night. They train in the off-season, forced to keep their bodies in peak physical condition. They weight train throughout the fall and summer, cycle every day, and work their

core through other exercises such as swimming. Keep in mind all of this is only to maintain the conditioning required for a single spring race. It's a commitment that is not required of many club teams — a physical struggle not for the glories of victory — but for the sheer thrill of each race. "In order to be good and competitive on the bike, you have to practice about three hours a day," sophomore cyclist James Robbins said.

"Throughout the season it's a huge commitment from everybody who comes out and races," junior cyclist Jonathan Smits said. "It's very much, in a way, a very competitive sport, almost to the varsity level."

The cycling team, like many other athletic clubs, is not afforded the luxury of coaches, managers, or administrators for schedule and travel arrangements. These responsibilities fall under the leadership of senior president Cliff Smoot and the efforts of each individual cyclist. "For the

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COURTESY OF JONATHAN SMITS

Nathan Coleman (foreground), a Hopkins med student, races at North Carolina State.

Track takes record-breaking pace to Messiah

By EILEEN LILLY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The word "break" too often has negative connotations in sports. With athletes periodically sustaining broken bones and balls sometimes breaking windows, it's good to see the word "break" associated with something other than damaged goods. And for this year's women's track team, the word "break" has meant fallen records and future success.

Over the past weekend, the men's and women's track contingents traveled to Graham, Pa., to compete at the Messiah Invitational. The women's team, which continues to show meet-by-meet improvement, placed fourth out of 13 schools while the men's team finished fifth in the overall team standings. The women's relay teams set two new school records in several relays, as well as a new freshman record in the steeplechase. A small group also competed at West Chester, Penn., to practice their individual races.

Freshman Laura Paulsen started off the day by scoring ten points for the Blue Jays, winning the 800 meters in a time of 2:20.16. Freshman Mira Patel, led by Paulsen's grueling pace, also managed to score in the race by placing fourth. For her breakthrough performance, Head Coach Bobby Van Allen awarded the Athlete of the Meet baton to

Patel.

Senior Giselle Joseph, junior Jessica Reeves, sophomore Paula Osborn and sophomore Jordan Ireton smashed the 400-meter relay school record with a time of 50.49. Not wanting to be outdone by a freshman, sophomore Rachel Hogen also delivered a win in the 1500 meters. She ran the race in 4:56.42.

Besides also placing in the 4x400 meter relay, Joseph, Reeves and Osborn also placed in their individual events. Joseph ran the 100-meter dash in 12.84 for third place. Reeves placed in both the 100 meters (fifth) and the pole vault (third). Osborn ran the 200 meters and placed third with a time of 27.25.

Freshman Mary O'Grady continued to make strides in the steeplechase. She set a new freshman record for the event, earning third place.

The 4x800 meter relay team set a new school record with a time of 9:53.03, easily winning first place. The relay team included O'Grady, Patel, Hogen and Paulsen. All four runners ran their legs of the race in under 2:30 to combine for the school record and the win.

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SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Freshman Jordan Litner grimaces as he leaps over a hurdle on his way to finishing eleventh in the 100-meter hurdles on Sat.

THE B SECTION

The Johns Hopkins
News-Letter

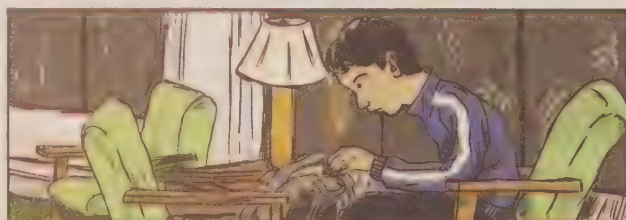
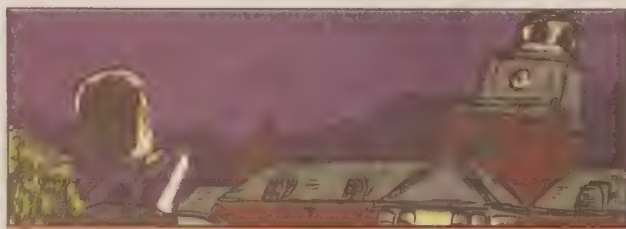
Focus • Features • Arts & Entertainment • Calendar • Cartoons

APRIL 19, 2007

Homeless on Homewood

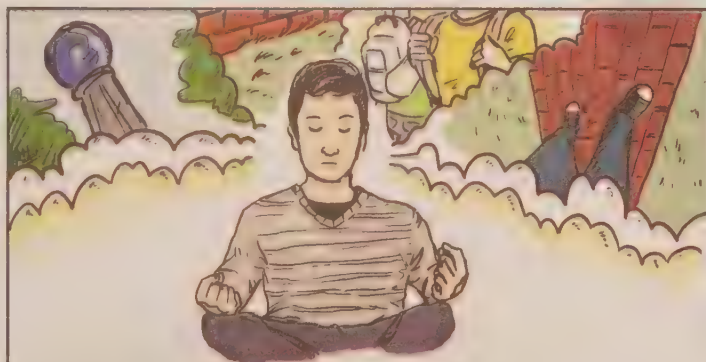
Text and illustrations by WILLIAM PARSCHALK

That first night walking towards the Hut, duffel bag on my shoulder, backpack loaded with class materials, I wondered what epiphanies and revelations awaited me at week's end. It was midnight, and it was the first night of my project; can a student survive one school week living on campus?



The rules were simple. I couldn't leave campus until Friday at midnight. No going back to my apartment, no crossing roads like University and North Charles. I could only sleep in locations open to all students — no on-campus workplaces. Try to use only what I could carry.

My duffel bag and backpack were packed with the following: a pair of shorts and a pair of jeans, ample underwear, socks and t-shirts, two sweaters and a light jacket, an external hard drive, three notebooks for class, drawing paper, books by Joyce, Raymond Carver, and Donald Barthelme, a tooth brush, tooth paste, shampoo and bar soap (double-wrapped in plastic bags), a Jornada 720, and its charger. On me I had my glasses, an iPod, and my cell phone (the indestructible Nokia "candy-bar" model circa 2001).



I was anxious to see what could be absorbed by the completion of the project. Would I become literate in all the minor details of campus life, find a deeper understanding of our school and, perhaps, our society, or would I learn nothing? I wondered how well my sanity would hold up.

My first night of sleep, propped on two chairs in the Hut, was uncomfortable and filled with minor interruptions, but the sleep was decent. I woke up, bought an overpriced muffin from Café Q, changed my clothes and brushed my teeth in a bathroom in the Martin Center, and set out on my day. The largest nuisance from the start was the duffel bag. It banged into me constantly. I had a whole school week still to go.



I opted to sleep in the HUT again. This time I nabbed a two-seater which I was able to lie out on. I woke Tuesday morning feeling disoriented and dirty.



I walked to the Athletic Center and took a shower in the pool locker room, feeling the first real pangs of the project — a sense of displacement mixed with confinement. I felt like a prisoner.



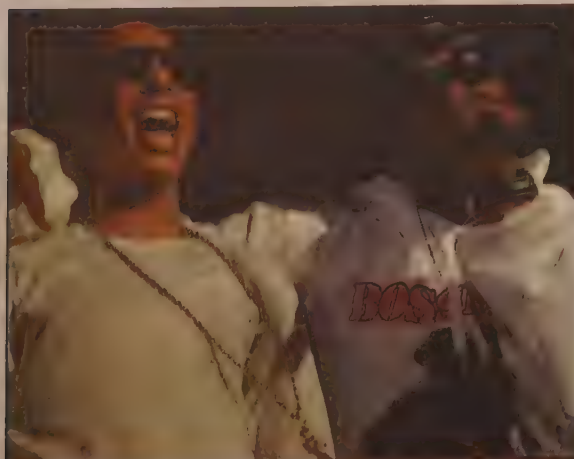
Fortunately the weather that day was exceptional. HEAT held a rally on the beach with free food, and I, having nothing else to do outside of class and News-Letter, got more work finished than I'd probably done all semester. That night I chose to sleep in the HAC lab.

I woke up around 4 a.m., and without thinking, grabbed my things and trucked over to the couches in the Gilman lobby. I woke up once more around 8. I opened my eyes to see first the stained-glass windows. Those rose-colored illustrations, combined with the gray, damp weather, pushed me towards a level of disorientation that destroyed my sense of location. I walked to eat breakfast in Bloomberg, and every part of that walk felt like strolling through a dream.



CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

Common's performance heats up a rainy weekend



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

After years of offering up music that bravely went against the grain of the hip-hop mainstream, rapper Common reached the zenith of street cred this past weekend — as the headliner of the Hopkins Spring Fair. With a showcase that spanned his entire career, this respected hip-hop icon brought his smart, politically-incisive songs to Homewood. Catch the review in **ARTS, B6**.

SHOPPING FOCUS



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

Check out South Moon Under for premium jeans

By AUDREY MURRAY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

An essential component of any wardrobe is a solid collection of jeans. Denim can be both stylish and comfortable, dressed up or dressed down and worn almost anywhere.

In Baltimore, one of the best places to shop for jeans is the beachy boutique South Moon Under. Voted “Best Place to Buy Jeans” by *Baltimore City Paper* in 2006, this store offers a wide range of designer denim and knowledgeable staff to help you select the perfect pair of jeans.

Founded in 1968 as a beach store in Ocean City, Md., the franchise has expanded to 11 stores, including branches in Towson and the Inner Harbor. The Inner Harbor location sells men’s and women’s clothing, swimwear, shoes, handbags, accessories and chic home furnishings.

The clothing South Moon Under carries is similar to other boutiques: high end, original pieces you aren’t going to find in a mall. The store is unique, however, in its beach-inspired atmosphere. They carry trendy, casual clothing perfect for a spring break trip as well as more traditional luxe apparel for a night out.

The store carries a good selection of jeans for those just starting to purchase designer denim. Finding the perfect pair of jeans, however, requires a little bit of work.

The key is to find the perfect cut and fit for your body, and a style appropriate for the occasion. The process is also slightly different for men than for women.

For women, “7 for All Mankind or Citizens of Humanity are good starter-off designer denim if you haven’t purchased it before,” South Moon Under store manager Erin Alessi said. She cautions, however, that these two brands tend to be low-rise, which can take some getting used to at first.

Paige Premium Denim is another classic brand for the first-time shopper. Alessi notes that the brand is designed by a former



COURTESY OF SOUTH MOON UNDER

South Moon Under, with locations at Harbor East and Towson, is a one-stop destination for the latest and greatest in fashion.

model for both 7 and Citizens whose industry experience created a strong knowledge base for her designs.

Paige is known for its comfortable fits and higher waists. Unlike other designers, Paige “puts elastic in the waistband, so they don’t stretch the way Sevens and Citizens stretch,” Alessi explains. Some customers prefer

this because the jeans retain the same fit each time you wear them, unlike jeans that tighten and stretch with each wash and wear.

True Religion is a trendier brand, known for their signature twisted seam. According to Alessi, True Religion cuts can be very flattering because the twisted seam elongates the leg and the large back pockets enhance a flat backside.

Jeans come in a wide variety of cuts, like flare, boot cut, straight leg and peg leg. “If they’re starting out, customers probably go for a flare or a boot cut,” Alessi said. Tight, straight leg cuts are trendier, but can be a little daunting for the novice designer denim

shopper. The peg leg, a super-skinny jean cut that hugs the leg all the way down to the ankles, is an especially popular look right now. To pull it off, Alessi suggests pairing a tighter cut with heels in the summer, or tucking them into boots in the winter.

Finding the right fit can be especially tricky with high-end denim. “Designer jeans like Sevens and Citizens are going to stretch out a lot,” Alessi notes. “When you’re trying on jeans, you really want them to be almost to the point where you are just able to button them.” Beginner shoppers may feel a little uncomfortable or worry that the jeans are too tight, but once you take them home and wear them for a few hours, Alessi says they should stretch out into a snug, comfortable fit.

Shopping for men’s jeans is an equally precise process as a result of the variety of denim available. Cautious shoppers may prefer the classic, traditional fits of Levis and the men’s line from 7 for All Mankind. “You’re going to see most guys wearing Sevens right now,” Alessi says.

Like the women’s line, Sevens “are the great starter designer denim for men as well. It’s a basic jean for a guy that wants to be a little more fashionable, but not too over the top.” Alessi notes that Sevens can have a tighter fit,

and that Mavis are a good starter denim for guys looking for baggier jeans.

There are also brands that cater to the fashion-forward man. True Religion offers a stylish, edgy men’s line for the chic customer. Chip and Pepper is another bold brand. They have a selection of distressed jeans, with distinctive rips on the back pockets. “A guy who’s already used to wearing designer jeans might want to try these,” Alessi says.

Trendy dressers can experiment with straight leg fits, which, according to Alessi, can be intimidating for men just starting to wear designer jeans.

The looser style of men’s jeans tends to make fitting easier for men than for women, but Alessi notes that some popular brands, including Sevens and True Religion, all come with one standard 33.5-inch inseam. Men are usually used to buying their pants with both a waist and inseam measurement, and may have to get their designer jeans hemmed.

Nothing can flatter your body like the perfect pair of jeans. But finding them isn’t always easy. “Jeans are very, very hard,” Alessi says. “Next to bathing suits, jeans are probably the hardest thing to buy. You really have to try on different sizes and styles to find the right one for you.”

Thrift stores offer one-of-a-kind vintage clothes

By JENNIFER PENG
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Thrift stores are all kinds of awesome, catering to those with no money, too much money and all you middling folk in between.

Thrift store selections have absurdly low price ranges as well as an incredible range of merchandise.

Since we’re dealing with items donated mostly from older folk eager to let go of their well-loved acid-wash, the bulk of what you’ll find will be garishly dated by the neons and spandex of the ‘80s and ‘90s — stirrup pants galore!

However, there’s a lot of wear or at least a lot of laughs left in the goods you’ll come across, and with the right stores, amazing finds are scattered throughout the place.

With the obscene prices most vintage and novelty stores are charging, it’s much easier on your wallet and your conscience to hit up a thrift store and drop less than a week’s pay on an entire outfit, or a mere pittance for the Smurf figurine that would complete your dorm room decor.

Most stores have a unique personality and selection, depending mostly on the neighborhood it’s located in; I would suggest exploring the establishments scattered throughout Roland Park and Hampden, not only because they’re walking distance from campus, but also because their selections tend to be more gems of American commerce and less *Saved by the Bell* paraphernalia, and I’m sure a dearth of Screech has never kept you up at night.

While shopping, keep an eye out for the details: with knickknacks, as long as the price is low enough, buy to your heart’s content, but keep in mind that a battered Barbie Dream House might lose its appeal as soon as you wake up to it on your night stand the next morning. With clothing, look out for fabric and detailing; if it demands special cleaning or maintenance, it’d better be worth the trouble or cheap enough to discard when it’s been worn past decent shape.

Cotton and silk, while rarer than your generic polyester, are still best of the best, easy to keep and maintain with the former,

and well worth your money in the case of the latter. Clothing ripped along the seams can easily be fixed by DIY or a cheap trip to the cleaners that do tailoring along Saint Paul St., but clothing ripped anywhere else will leave a nasty, obvious fix. When in doubt about sizing, as there is no guarantee on places to change in most thrift stores, go bigger; a belt or hemming takes care of the problem.

Most places, especially in the Hampden-Roland Park area, have amazing selections of costume jewelry and other accessories, but you should always assume that everything is faker than an undergrad’s ID. Costume jewelry is rather delicate in storage and when worn; if any stones are loose or chain links breaking or broken, try to gauge whether or not you can fix it with a bit of glue and a pair of pliers.

Accessories like sunglasses and scarves should be checked for any serious defaults, but otherwise are easy purchases if you like them and they fit, although watch out for sunglasses that sit slanted, as it’s hard to adjust the frames and any nose-pieces to perfection yourself without harming cheaper pieces.

As for shoes, purchasing one size too small is a big no-no; secondhand shoes have already been semi-broken-in, and will not stretch any more than your foot will shrink. Notice the shoes themselves; if a good cleaning, new laces and replaced soles would make it unrecognizable, buy those babies outright. If the color is rather off, realize that leather shoes can change patina if worn or polished enough, and that cheaper shoes can easily upgrade with a quick coat of spray paint.

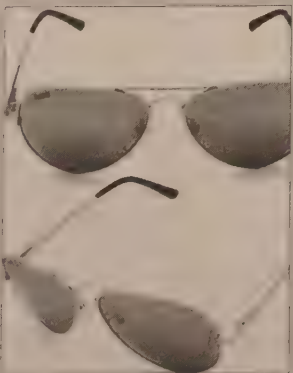
Bags require the same amount of attention: any rips along the outside seams of a bag can easily be fixed by the tailors down by Eddie’s and Donna’s, but a rip on the fabric itself will never be fully hidden. Leather ripped on the outside of a bag is difficult to fix, and unless the bag in question is mind-blowing, definitely not worth it. Rips and stains on the inside of a bag are negligible, as the lining can easily be changed and no one will ever notice, but note any smells and other irregularities (same with clothing, please) that will make the piece too much of a hassle to deal with.

Keep in mind that most items, with a bit of elbow grease, can be brought to an unrecognizable and gorgeous state, while others, especially at places with such a variety as thrift stores, should just be left behind for your own benefit.

Good luck thrifting, and to get you started, a list of thrift shops near campus or your hometown can be found at <http://www.thriftshopper.com/>.

HOT ITEMS FOR SPRING

Aviators



COURTESY OF
[HTTP://WWW.4AFRIEND.COM](http://www.4afriend.com)

There’s nothing that says “I’m cool and aloof” like a pair of aviators. You’ll bring sexy back with these styling shades.

One-pieces



COURTESY OF
[HTTP://WWW.BROWNSFASHION.COM](http://www.brownsfashion.com)

One-piece bathing suits are a classy and chic way to hide all of that winter hibernation weight that you put on over Intersession.

Bermuda shorts



COURTESY OF
[HTTP://SHOPSECUREWEBS.COM/](http://shopsecurewebs.com/)

Are they long shorts or really short pants? We’ll probably never know. But it doesn’t take a genius to figure out that these shorts look great!

Sundresses



COURTESY OF
[HTTP://WWW.VINTAGEDRESS.CO.UK](http://www.vintagedress.co.uk)

Not only are sundresses comfortable and optimistic looking, they also keep you cool when the spring weather starts to get extra sultry.

Beach hats



COURTESY OF
[HTTP://WWW.SUNGRUBBIES.COM](http://www.sungrubbies.com)

They’re floppy, they’re woven, they’re fashionable. Not to mention that they block out harmful UV rays.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.BROWN-COUNTYHOSPITAL.COM](http://www.brown-countyhospital.com)

Check out nearby thrift stores in Roland Park and Hampden for amazing deals.

FEATURES

Local acts bring original sounds to Spring Fair

Women can be sexual and independent too

By **ETHAN OGILBY**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

In classic Spring Fair fashion, the potential merriment of the Homewood campus was slightly dampened by rain. The victims of this precipitation were plentiful, but, in particular, the stellar line-up of bands, set to play on Sunday at the Beach, was unfortunately prevented from performing.

I had been ready and anxious to rehash my middle school days with Jimmie's Chicken Shack and take a funkified journey with the eight-piece group known as The Boogie Hustlers, but a follow-up to Saturday's Beach-based live music would be impossible. Alas, I would have to be content with only half the recommended dosage.

When I got there, I was greeted by an extensive set up at the bottom of the Beach. Under a Spring Fair banner, the large stage and impressive speakers combined to make a very respectable venue for the visiting bands.

Since not even the lure of Spring Fair can coax me into leaving my house before noon on a Saturday, I was tragically absent for the kick-off band, 3Fifths. Had I been there, I probably wouldn't have learned they were an indie-rock outfit, big in the Baltimore-D.C. underground scene. The band came about after two local musical factions joined forces to combine jam-based influence with more structured and melody-driven song-writing.

I made it just in time for the start of Mad Sweet Pangs, the second group of the day. Made up of 20-somethings from Delaware, the boys were taken right out of the Phish mold, except with a



Despite weather-induced difficulties and audience indifference, the daytime entertainment on the Beach did not disappoint listeners.

little less talent (though they had plenty of it, nonetheless).

They call their sound a folk-funk blend that they've christened as "Organic Rock". They even had a live trombone player looked a little like Hurley from *Lost*.

The music was very good, though the crowd wasn't quite giving them the respect and attention they deserved. Despite the beautiful weather, the Beach was mostly vacated, and, for the few that were there, they kept closer to

the library than to the stage.

While Mad Sweet Pangs had an appreciable sound, I couldn't help feel a little sorry for them when they requested, "Anyone who can hear us, give us a wave." As my two friends wandered away, I gave a pity wave before following suit, making it look like I was pleading with my friends to stay.

As I wandered the maze of apple fritters, deep-fried Oreos and giant turkey legs, I pondered the decision to relegate such high-

quality acts to the beach while heavy rock bands like Tears of Mars semi-awkwardly dominated the sound space at the Beer Garden.

While it surely has something to do with the Beer Garden's sponsorship, it is a shame that Mad Sweet Pangs, an ideal fit for the spirited atmosphere of said garden, were stuck entertaining an audience mostly consisting of young parents picnicking with their 2-year-olds. In all seriousness, Mad Sweet Pangs would have gotten a larger turnout at the Beach on a sunny Tuesday afternoon than they did at Spring Fair.

I made it back to the Beach stage for Basshound, Saturday's closing band. Spring Fair veterans, the Baltimore-based jam-rock-jazz group provided an entertaining set. Their thoughtfully composed yet wild and energetic songs (with some Jimi Hendrix and Traffic covers tossed in) would have been another perfect fit for the Beer Garden, or at least for more people. In any case, the release of the *Basshound E.P.* coincided, more or less, with this performance and is available for order online for anyone who wants to experience the group.

As we all know, this proved to be the finale for the Beach, as rain washed away any chance of hearing live music on Sunday. Of course, I wasn't surprised as this has thrice been the case in my Spring Fair experience. In the words of Cubs fans: maybe next year.



Ashley Wietsma
Orgasmic Chemistry

I'm a modern woman and by definition should be exerting my independence and waging war against the evil axis of testosterone. The women of today are expected to stand up for their rights, demand equal pay and strive for success in their occupations. They are tough, defensive and unyielding. Society's depiction of a modern woman is anything but sexy.

Since the women's rights movement in the '60s, modern culture now expects every wom-

an to be a feminist. A girl who isn't wrestling with masculine corporate America is considered to be committing an injustice to her sex and society as a whole. At the same time, feminists aren't embraced with welcoming arms.

The simple word "feminist" elicits a defensive response because of the typical image of harshness and aggression. This was even depicted in *Borat* when he meets with a group of feminists. As the audience expected, the women were hostile and judgmental. Many women shy away from the label because of its negative connotation.

Ironically the characteristics of a feminist do not coincide with the ideals of femininity. The stereotypical feminist is in fact not feminine. It appears that in order to be treated like an equal women must be "masculinized." Rather than being forced to change our persona, we

should be celebrating our own qualities. We can be powerful and strong without abandoning sexuality and beauty.

The 21st-century female should be able to embrace both sexuality and femininity without feeling bipolar. She shouldn't have to waffle between the two roles. Both can exist without contradiction. This ideal woman can exert her independence while still taking pride in her

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

Still alive, and here to tell the tale

By **MAX MCKENNA**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

On Thursday, April 12, Hopkins' student-to-student peer listening group, A Place to Talk, hosted speaker Brandi Care, a survivor of suicide. Care had also visited Homewood Campus in March 2005.

Care miraculously survived a jump from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in 1998, and has since gone on to speak to groups to raise depression awareness among young adults, who often have depression creep up on them unnoticed. She has appeared on national television, on such programs as *Oprah*, *Good Morning America* and *Dateline NBC*.

It was during her junior year of high school when Care first became aware of her depression. Though she was a good student and was involved socially and in multiple extracurricular activities (having been class president, a swimming instructor and the captain of her school's field hockey team), she began feeling inexplicably despondent and unhappy with her life. Though she retained a happy appearance, there was a feeling of hopelessness she could not shake, the first signs of what she later realized was depression.

This change went mostly unnoticed by her parents. They considered her sudden loss of interest in athletics and academics, and her new-formed habits of overeating and over-sleeping to be the result of stress and over-exertion. Unfortunately, Care did not realize she was suffering from clinical depression until after her suicide attempt.

It was the day of the Bay Bridge Walk in May 1998 that Care decided to try to take her own life. The famous Bay Bridge spans the Chesapeake, connecting Maryland's Eastern and Western shores, and is 186 feet above water at its highest point.

Though Care did not participate in the walk, her family did, and while they were gone for the day, she began to think jumping

off the bridge would be a quick and painless method of suicide. Later that day, she drove to the bridge and threw herself into the bay.

Incredibly, Care survived the jump. Contrary to what she'd expected, she was not rendered unconscious from the impact, and her survival instinct made her fight to stay above the water. Luckily, a passing boat rescued her.

Following the attempt, Care was placed in a psychiatric facility where doctors diagnosed her with clinical depression. She had not realized the sadness she'd felt all year was the result of a disease. Paxil was prescribed for her, and she credits the medication with allowing her to think rationally, to better understand her true feelings and thoughts.

Care now believes her depression resulted from her personal over-extension in high school. She warns students against taking on more than they may be able to handle. Also, her mother suffered from depression, which put her at higher risk for the disease.

Care began her speech by showing footage of her *Dateline* piece. She then spoke frankly about her story and the reactions her family and friends had to the dramatic event. An open discussion followed where Care answered student questions, elaborated on her story and offered methods for dealing with and detecting depression. After the event, individual students approached her one-on-one for more personal advice.

Members of APTT consider Care's message to fit perfectly with their mission. Located in the AMR I lobby, APTT, an organization of undergraduates, trains its peer listeners to listen and respond to fellow students without giving advice. APTT strives to help students coping with depression or personal problems to explore their thoughts and feelings to reach their own conclusions.

"She's a powerful and inspiring woman," says APTT's current director, senior Michelle Samson.

"Depression is a big problem at Hopkins," says current public relations officer and future director Aaron Lazorowitz, a junior. "It tends to go unnoticed. At APTT, we're trying to make Hopkins a more supportive environment. It's like a big family away from home."

APTT is open from Sunday to Thursday, from 7 p.m. to midnight. All visits and phone calls to their AMR I office are confidential.

A week in the life of a modern college vagrant

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

It was as if I had become a phantom, silently roaming the grounds of the campus. After two full days of campus confinement, this was not the result that I had expected. It was a combination of sleep deprivation, lousy eating habits and displacement. A person needs a space to call his or her own, where private sanctuary can be found. When you're homeless, the lack of this fulfillment can be devastating to your morale.

My sense of time also slowly broke down as the days wore on. Wednesday blended into Thursday which blended into Friday. I was constantly tired. I napped every couple of hours. The rhythm of my standard eating schedule collapsed. I stopped feeling hunger. Friday I ate a small box of cereal, a dumpling, and nothing more.

I stumbled through campus wondering what, exactly, was the point of my project. I questioned my motives, and struggled to find some deeper avenue of meaning, some bigger picture to reveal just what exactly was the point of subjecting myself to a week on campus. To understand why students devote hours of their lives to sitting in tiny cubicles in the lower depths of our library? To achieve an in-depth grasp of the drive behind those all-nighters that hundreds of students pull every week? Was there some bolder, more dramatic statement about our culture, and the current state of the American College Student?

A sample conversation from when I informed people about my project:

Q: *Are you an idiot?*
A: Maybe. I'd like to imagine that I was striving for something much grander than what I achieved in the end.

Q: *And what did you achieve in the end?*

A: Unfortunately, it's hard to translate. What I experienced was a collage of time and images, small documents of the people, the conversations and the lives that frequent this campus. I was the fly on the wall, while also the boulder that rolls down the hill, if that makes any sense.

Q: *It doesn't.*
A: Sorry.

Q: *So ... what about eating?*

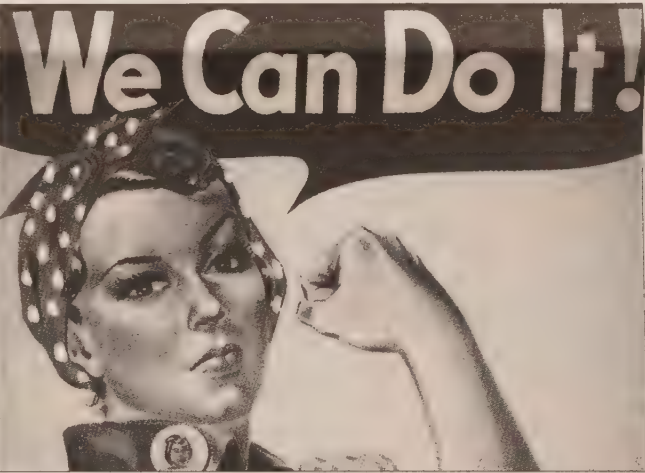
A: I tried to restrict myself to a budget, and see how far I could get on hand-outs. In the end I spent \$22.43 in cash, and around five bucks in J-Cash. I bought little boxes of cereal from Blue Jay Café and I ate a lot of pizza. Clubs tend to have pizza. I drank a lot of water from fountains.

Q: *And hygiene?*

A: I brushed my teeth and washed my face just like always. I took a shower on Tuesday and Thursday, in the locker rooms over at the Athletic Center. It was my first experience showering publicly. It was weird.

Q: *So you slept mainly in the Hut?*

A: Other than the HAC lab, the Hut is the only location open 24



COURTESY OF [HTTP://FVS.MSAD40.ORG](http://FVS.MSAD40.ORG)
Women are trying to find an image of strength, like Rosie the Riveter, and sexuality.



WILLIAM PARSCHALK/NEWS-LETTER
There are some things we just can't too without, even in a life of vagabondage.

hours to all students that I could turn to. I hear if you try to stay in Levering they won't kick you out, but I didn't get the chance to check that out. I wish I had slept outside when the weather was nice.

Q: *Would you do it again?*

A: No. I would recommend it, though, to those who can mentally handle it. I don't regret how the week transpired. I didn't explore the various nooks and crannies of the campus, I didn't befriend the janitorial and security staff and enter into their world, and I didn't even try out all the options available to me, like eating at Levering. In the end what I got was something much more personal via this unique test of my own abilities and resourcefulness. I attained, if not a complex epiph-

any to apply to others, a broader sense of peace.

As a senior, what it sort of brought was a feeling of closure to this small universe we call Hopkins. Whether we enjoy it or not, Hopkins is our home for four years. That's a lot of time for people at the brink of adulthood. Trying to live on campus for a week will lead some people to hate this place. Yet, we do all need to take the time to reflect upon our surroundings — the people we see, the places we study and work and play — we lend each of these our own importance. You should stop to appreciate our world here, at least once during your college career. That's the most practical thing I can tell you.

Also the water fountain in the Hut kicks ass.

FEATURES

Sig Eps let their hair down for Crohn's disease research

In a bout of 'shear madness,' the fraternity raises money and awareness



COURTESY OF STEPHANIE SHIAU



LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

Twenty-one Sig Ep brothers volunteered to raise money for the National Crohn's and Colitis Foundation by having friends and family donate money to have their heads shaved.

Top left: Jack Lewis '10 trusted his head in the capable hands of Amalia Londono '10.

Top right: Three Sig Ep members allow fellow Hopkins students the opportunity to shave after having donated a minimum of \$5.

Right: Kyle Dugan '08 begins work on the head of David Hinds '08 while Logan Quinn '10 looks on in disbelief. Sitting next to Hinds, brother and event mastermind, Michael DeWane '09, awaits his turn.



COURTESY OF STEPHANIE SHIAU

By **HEATHER BARBAKOFF**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

It's Spring Fair, that Mecca of food, drink and cheap shopping. But past the pad thai, chicken on a stick and fried Oreos, there is a crowd forming. It starts modestly and slowly grows in size; the focal point is a table, behind which are two chairs. Sitting in each is a brother from the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. Behind each brother stands someone with a razor and underneath are tufts of hair. The brothers are nearly bald.

Rather than being a pledge task or a fraternity prank, Sig Ep's head-shaving table was an event for charity. "We have a brother, [sophomore] Michael DeWane, who has a close family friend who suffers from Crohn's disease," said sophomore Alex King, Sig Ep's presi-

dent. "And he came up with the idea to do something for Crohn's disease." The idea? To shave their heads in exchange for donations from family and friends toward Crohn's research.

Crohn's is a chronic gastrointestinal disease. It does not affect the hair; the brothers' intention was to create a "visual statement."

DeWane came up with the idea shortly before spring break. His father's friend from college has a 13-year-old son who suffers from Crohn's disease, a gastrointestinal disease which causes breaks in the lining of both the small and large intestines. Crohn's disease is frequently linked to a second disorder, Ulcerative colitis, in which the intestines become inflamed. Both diseases have no medicinal cure and suffers have the diseases fluctuate between periods of activity and remis-

sion.

DeWane considers the boy his "little brother," and says a large motivating factor in DeWane's decision to come to Hopkins was the opportunity to live near him and to act as a mentor, older brother, role model and pillar of support.

"A bunch of us [were] sitting around and talking in an informal meeting — we had been thinking about ways we could be involved in our community because we pride ourselves on being involved ... and one of the brothers came up with the idea of shaving our heads for Crohn's disease," said sophomore Sameer Bhalla. Despite the somewhat drastic nature of what they intended to do, "most of us were pretty receptive," Bhalla said. "There was no one who really complained, especially because of the cause that [it] was going

to." Crohn's disease "is something that affects so many people. We decided that it would be a really great thing to do; we really wanted to help out as much as we could," added sophomore Paulo Farqui.

After presenting his idea to the brotherhood, Sig Ep contacted the Maryland chapter of the National Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, and informed the organization of what it was that they planned to do. The foundation responded by sending the brothers some brochures and various different informational hand-outs, videotapes and bracelets. The Foundation also sent a teddy bear for DeWane's "little brother." For Sig Ep, however, according to King, the goal wasn't so much to "push the informative aspect very much."

The timing could not have been better. With the approach of Spring Fair eminent, the brothers decided to make it their goal to raise as much money as possible to donate to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation.

Advertising before the weekend began was vital; it was the personal responsibility of each of the five pledges and 16 brothers volunteering to be shaved to raise money individually. Facebook groups and events were created individually to gain support, and fliers were posted around campus as each brother tried to convince his family and friends that he was the one to donate money to. Tables were constructed in front of Fresh Food Café and Nolan's on 33rd, where students could pay \$5 for a raffle ticket, which would entitle them to the privilege of personally shaving the brother of their choice's head on Spring Fair weekend. But the primary way that Sig Ep was able to raise money? Word of mouth.

"Most of the brothers involved in getting their heads shaved formed their own Facebook events. It became very much [about] supporting a specific brother to raise as much money as they could. People with friends — and multiple friends [as brothers] — would donate to each of them," King said. There was an "overall group mentality to raise money," with the target goal being \$1,500, with 20 brothers to participate with at least

\$100 raised by each. Donations came primarily at the donor's discretion, varying from a few dollars to larger sums. Sig Ep brother (and senior) Will Knapp's father donated \$500, while a local community member who suffers from Crohn's disease herself donated \$100 on her own. Her mother later matched her daughter's donation. At press time, the total was still being counted, but it is estimated that Sig Ep was able to raise at least \$2,700.

And then it was Spring Fair. The sky was only slightly overcast, and the scent of beef and funnel cake was in the air. The brothers of Sig Ep got ready for their big day. Located with the other non-profit groups outside of AMR I, the brothers readied themselves and their razors. Running in shifts from their hot dog booth — the proceeds from which also went to the National Crohn's and Colitis Foundation — volunteers lined up and prepared themselves.

The brothers volunteered on their own to get their heads shaved; it wasn't a pledge task or something that the fraternity had made mandatory, but everyone was still involved. Brothers shaved one another's heads, collected money for each other and publicized the event.

Sophomore Wes Hung, Sig Ep's philanthropy chair, said that a lot of the event's success was due to "the 'wild' factor of the event." Brothers were letting passersby, pledges, fellow brothers, girlfriends, classmates and community members shave their heads. "I've never even buzzed my head before. My hair was fairly short, but I'd never even had a buzz. I was a little nervous at first, but it was for a good cause. Lots of brothers were doing it, so I figured might as well," Bhalla said, who had his head shaved on Saturday. He was able to raise over \$300 on his own.

"I am happy that our own brothers came out to support the brothers in this event, making fun of brothers for having designs shaved into their heads. It was a fun event for people who were there watching, brothers who were having theirs shaved. [It] made it a lot more fun for all who participated in the event," Hung said. A few brothers who

had not previously decided to shave their heads got into the spirit of things and joined up at the last minute, while the audience watching the spectacle made sure that no brothers backed out.

Farqui was the first brother to have his head shaved. "It was all right. Some people knew what they were doing, others didn't. It was definitely a fun and interesting experience; something I would do again if it was for a good cause."

As the Friday and Saturday of Spring Fair went on, more than just brothers began to participate. While no other Greek organizations participated, Rob Turning, the coordinator of Greek Life at Hopkins, visited the table and donated money to the cause. Jay Garrett, president of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni Association, not only stopped by to lend his successors a hand, but had his head shaved as well. The brothers helped shave each other's heads, getting into the spirit by shaving designs and patterns into the heads of their unsuspecting victims. "It was a little crazy, people kept finding things in people's hair. Some people shaved it long, others really short; did crazy designs," King said.

The crowd was heaviest on Friday, when the shock factor had its full value. "It was a look of amusement, disbelief sometimes ... people walking by and seeing people with half-shaven heads. We were able to accumulate a pretty decently sized crowd. It was certainly visible enough to generate enough attention to get people to stop by and ask what was going on," King said. Unfortunately, the event was rained out on Sunday, but the two brothers who were supposed to be shaved then are having it done during their weekly meeting. "It's definitely something that could be a great annual event ... We'll have to devise another scheme. But we definitely want to continue giving back to the community," Bhalla said. While Sig Ep is no longer actively pursuing donations, they are still collecting money that had been pledged at an earlier time.

As to the overall success of the event, the brothers are feeling proud. They managed to surpass their desired goal by almost double, while simultaneously raising on-campus awareness of Crohn's disease. "I enjoyed doing it, but I did not like having my head sun-burned," Farqui said. "Other than that it was a great experience ... we just wanted to shine a positive light on fraternity life here at Hopkins."

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FEATURES

The dueling messages of feminism

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
sensitivity. Sex can play an important role in her life, but she will not accept being treated as an object. The key to achieving this is her self-image. If she allows her sexuality to be the core of her existence, she'll easily lose any appreciation for intelligence, athleticism or leadership abilities. The modern woman must always expect respect from those she accepts as her partners. Her sexuality is a blessing and should be appreciated by those she shares it with.

The discussion of equal rights is usually limited to salaries, parenting and political power. Sex is another important topic in this debate. In the collegiate environment, it's more acceptable for guys to sleep around than girls. In the spirit of equality, girls should be allowed to experiment sexually and enjoy the pleasures of intimacy without being criticized.

For both men and women, sex can be considered a sport. The game of pursuit and capture is exhilarating and in the end everyone comes out a winner. As long as the sex is safe and consensual,

it's completely acceptable.

Furthermore, the perceptions of how men and women have sex are also misleading. Men don't always want to have rough, violent sex. They can be tender, soothing and emotional. Similarly, women can crave hot, passionate naughtiness. Men and women aren't confined to these stereotypes of screwing versus making love. These primal urges of violent sex arise in both genders. It's natural to act wild and ravenous at times. No one should be judged for an overzealous approach to making love.

The same logic can be applied to masturbation. Women can enjoy pornography and do in fact pleasure themselves. It's simply too taboo to discuss even between girls. A true feminist should be proud of her body despite its size, shape or color.

Masturbation can be an intimate experience enjoying the beauty and sensuality of one's own body. It's a universal pleasure that everyone has the right to enjoy. I'm sure Mary Pat Clarke wouldn't support that new amendment.

So who are these modern sexy feminists? The Pussycat Dolls

certainly are hot. If you disagree, watch the "Buttons" video: they're on fire, literally. And they do sing a song entitled "I Don't Need A Man," but I'm not going to encourage girls to admire this female pop group.

This ideal image is difficult to pinpoint because essentially it is a difficult persona to create. It requires complete confidence and self-respect while still retaining a sense of morality and class. There should be a sense of freedom but a respect for limits. The overly confident girl at the local bar who sleeps with any guy of her choice simply because she can is not a true feminist.

The modern woman isn't afraid to attract attention with her body. She can wear mini-skirts and master the art of flirtation, but still can take on the engineering of a bridge or run for state governor. She loves to be desired but will not give it away too easily. She sets goals for herself and is destined for success. A sexy feminist will strive to rule the world but she'll be damn well sure to look hot while doing it.

HOT AT HOPKINS



HEATHER BARBAKOFF/NEWS-LETTER

- COLIN RAY -
Hometown: Chardon, Oh.
Studying: English
Year: Sophomore

Colin Ray is a hell of a gentleman. He's got class beyond many of his peers, and he's not afraid to let it show.

This brown-haired blue-eyed fellow says he's a pretty thoughtful guy. Well, obviously: he works with Habitat for Humanity in his spare time. He also likes cooking for girls, a rare trait in men these days.

So far, so good. But is there anything a bit off about this baseball-playing English major? "I'm a compulsive organizer," he says. "And I drink a lot of tea."

That's not the only beverage Colin partakes of. With any gentleman comes a fixated romanticism, and in Colin's case it involves a variety of spirits and bodies of water. Colin is turned on not only by girls who enjoy a fine whiskey, but by wine-drinking females as well. His ideal date takes place on an ocean shore, or by a Great Lake, perhaps, and in-

volves drinking on the beach until early morning, with a possible swim under the moonlight. He came close to that once. "The most romantic thing I've ever had done to me was when a girl made me dinner in a riverside park, and we sat out drinking blackberry wine all night."

A cut above the throngs of skanky girls who can't hold their own in an argument, this single Sig Ep brother's class was once compromise in high school. "My mom insisted on accompanying me to a movie with a girl. The girl never really talked to me again."

So if this romantic, sometime momma's boy, is the guy for you, hit him up.

Spring is here and you know what that means: love is in the air. Find someone cute and nominate him or her for **Hot at Hopkins!** Send an e-mail to jhufeatures@hotmail.com

Listen up, Hopkins Boys. This week, the *News-Letter* has found you an English Rose. This gorgeous British bombshell has a charming accent and crystal blue eyes, which she tells us are rimmed with gold to denote her Irish heritage, and hair that would put poor Goldilocks to shame. She claims to have been "born in a lovely plowed field in England called Sussex," but has also resided about 20 minutes outside Seattle — not only transatlantic, but transcontinental! This sister of the Delta Xi Phi Multicultural sorority has a yen for travel and exploring new cultures, thoughts and habits of others. She deferred her admission to Hopkins last year so she could spend five months volunteering and traveling in India. Danielle's a member of the Student Sharing Coalition (SSC), having volunteered over 100 hours there since September. The lovely lady has committed herself to "stirring up the passion in Baltimore-area youth" about social justice and service.

Well, this curious compassionate oddball (so she says) likes her knights to not take themselves seriously and to recognize the joy and lessons that can be found in the examination of other people. She also likes it when they challenge convention. The key, however, to making poor Danielle swoon is in the poetry of love, primarily an "ickie sonnet." Not one to be picky, food is always a plus for this princess. But the moment he starts getting full of himself, it is adieu: Danielle's biggest turn-off is arrogance, but she'll let it slide if it sparks a decent conversation.

Despite her apparent self-confidence and ability to be comfortable in her own skin, the young philosopher gets worried now and again, citing that she's not sure at all what direction she wishes to go in. North, south, east or west? Oh, we're sorry. She meant she was torn between all the different things she finds fascinating. It makes sense that this Brit mentions that she's sometimes "a wee bit inarticulate for someone with a British accent!" This *Harry Pot-*



HEATHER BARBAKOFF/NEWS-LETTER

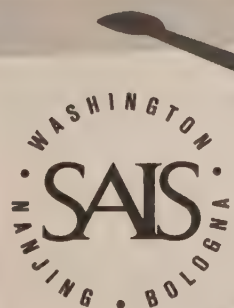
- DANIELLE WILSON -
Hometown: Sussex, U.K.
Studying: International Relations and Anthropology
Year: Freshman

ter fanatic despises when people who don't read about her favorite wizard deride him from the start, because the *Potter* books "abound with SO many marvelous minutiae."

Funny, unique and positively wonderful in many different ways, Danielle is one hottie that we're glad hopped across the pond!



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Common gives electrifying show despite delay

This Spring Fair weekend, hip-hop star Common fought the rain and delivered a performance that was well worth the wait

By GRETCHEN STITELER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Despite a very rainy two-hour delay, Common fans stuck it out to welcome the Chicago-based hip-hop artist last Saturday night at the Ralph S. O'Connor Recreation Center.

Common, whose real name is Lonnie Rashid Lynn, Jr., has been a prominent figure in both the underground and mainstream hip-hop scenes since the release of his first album, *Can I Borrow a Dollar?*, in 1992.

His discography includes five successive albums, over a dozen top-100 singles, and various collaborations with other artists. Hip-hop fans compare him to the likes of Mos Def and Talib Kweli as a performer of what is popularly called "conscious" hip hop — a brand of hip hop fueled by social, political and spiritual issues.

Common brought these issues home in a performance of songs from the full spectrum of his musical career. He repeatedly advocated a cross-cultural unity of religion free from bias and encouraged his audience to political action with his latest single, "The People", from the album *Finding Forever* (to be released in July 2007, with tracks produced by Kanye West). "This is your world," he said, expressing the need for greater political involvement on the part of today's youth. (Off stage, Common is a celebrity advocate for both PETA and AIDS Awareness campaigns.)

He continued in the spirit of audience participation throughout the show, inviting one lucky Hopkins lady onstage to dance, and eliciting audience-wide choruses of "fellas" and "ladies" during numerous songs. He seemed acutely attuned to the mood of his listeners, slowly crescendoing from mellow love song to bass-frenzied ballad.

Common's overall stage dynamic was nothing short of explo-



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Common invited sophomore Jessica Tural on stage with him during his performance at this year's Spring Fair feature concert.

sive: he danced, waved his arms, jumped and raced around the stage without pause for over an hour. At one point he "joined" his drummer, beating the cymbal so wildly that his free arm started involuntarily flailing, likewise electrifying the drummer to the point of breaking a stick from drumming so fast.

Which is not to say that the performance was all adrenaline and no contemplation. In one of the night's most poignant moments, Common dedicated a song to the recently deceased hip-hop pro-

ducer J Dilla with whom he had collaborated on several musical projects. Outside the studio, the two were good friends: when J Dilla fell ill with lupus and TTP in 2005, he asked Common to move in with him as his roommate. Common created *Finding Forever* in memory of J Dilla and explored the audience to "throw their lights up" as he sang a tribute to his late friend.

Other highlights of Common's performance included a spontaneous bout of free-styling, in which

[Common] repeatedly advocated a cross-cultural unity of religion free from bias ...

he gave props to both Hopkins for hosting him and Baltimoreans for supporting him. Later in the show he asked the audience, "Where did hip-hop start?" and subsequently stepped aside to let his Brooklyn-based DJ Dummy spin solo. (Dummy was phenomenal both technically and stylistically and will be featured on *Finding Forever*.) Common's keyboardist and drummer each had similar chances to perform without the accompaniment of the artist, effectively showcasing the enormous and multifarious talents behind Common's powerhouse style.

Common considers himself as part of a musical lineage and paid homage at the beginning of his performance to the accomplishments of such predecessors as Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and Bob Marley. With his passionate on-stage energy, provocative discourse with the audience and altruistic brand of showmanship, Common proves himself more than worthy of his pedigree.

Niblets' Sex capitalizes on its absurd physical comedy

By SASHA ROUSSEAU
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

So (as Dr. Freud might say) what comes to mind when I say the word "wieners"? Or "boobs"? Ok, what about just plain "sex"? You're probably not thinking about a guy in a chicken suit.

I guess that's proof you haven't yet seen the Buttered Niblet's irreverent production of *Sex a.k.a. Wieners and Boobs*. Five years after co-authoring *Sex*, playwrights Joe Lo Truglio, Michael Showalter and David Wain teamed up again to create the indie-ironic film classic *Wet Hot American Summer*. Both works reveal a similar delight in crass absurdity. *Sex a.k.a. Wieners and Boobs* is kind of Samuel Beckett meets *South Park*. It's a hilarious meeting, and not half as bleak as it sounds.

The play opens as a new sheriff arrives in Teaneck, N.J., a town run by gigolo warlord Tad Theaterman and populated by townspeople complicit in the rampant sex trade. After falling in love with a fallen woman named Hillary, sheriff Jack Greenberg sets out to get the girl, close the whorehouse and take down Tad.

The plot sounds like that of a morality play for the *Passion of the Christ* set, but *Sex* is essentially a collection of delightfully incomprehensible vignettes, which take full advantage of the luscious

lasciviousness of the town business, and play it for laughs. Such as: when a wanton French madame sends us into a flashback of herself as a young American protester getting dumped by a robot. Or when Hillary gets down to business with a banana in her boudoir.

And those scenes at least have something to do with the ostensible plot. We're frequently zooming off into half-sub-plots and unexplained sketch comedy setups, too. There is the scene of Tad Theaterman's mother throwing up after every bad joke his father makes. And the inexplicable five minutes in which we are plunged into the office politics of a struggling telemarketing company. Not to mention that fleeting glimpse of a guy in a chicken suit.

The play's use of structural convention only serves as a foundation for setups needed for hilarious and absurd physical comedy. The plot and characters are only ciphers, transparently reduced to comedians riffing on premises with potential.

But the comedians play those premises to the hilt, and there is at least one good laugh for every scene. The cast is remarkably strong: the chemistry and camaraderie between them help make the show lively and amusing.

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LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

Junior Adar Eisenbruch, senior Jerome Fox, and graduate student Adam Ruben star in *Sex a.k.a. Wieners and Boobs*, an absurdist comedy of short vignettes.

NUNO transforms textiles into art at BMA

By ALEXANDER TRAUM
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Textile art has generally not been afforded attention on par with painting or sculpture, or even other media within the broad category of design. Although design departments have been incorporated into major museums throughout the world, the fact remains that the applied arts are considered inferior to the "high arts." Such is reflected in the divergent vocabularies one uses to assess painting and sculpture on the one hand, and design on the other. For the former, the terminology and arguments of canonical and contemporary aestheticians are employed to justify value judgments, whereas for design, novelty is the overwhelming consideration. The Baltimore Museum of Art's new exhibit on on Japanese textile company's produc-

tions should clearly demonstrate how mistakenly textile art has been debased.

In 2002, the BMA began to collect pieces by NUNO, which is widely regarded as one of the most important textile producers in the world. NUNO (Japanese for "fabric") was founded in 1984 by Junichi Arai and Reiko Sudo. The company began as a small retail outlet that manufactured and sold traditional yet functional Japanese fabrics. Arai, who has worked in textiles since his teens, was interested in creating fabrics that combined traditional techniques with modern industry; an interest that has led to nearly 40 patents for new types of threads.

Arai left NUNO in 1987, and the mantle transferred to one of his young colleagues, Reiko Sudo. Before taking the helm, Sudo had traveled throughout Japan for NUNO, researching

different production techniques as well as accumulating a corps of artists. Sudo also drew upon her own life to inspire the company's direction. Sudo grew up in a family of cloth makers, and she later herself went on to study textiles at Musashino Art University in Tokyo. Sudo's life-long interactions with textiles and cloths inspired her to make NUNO an innovator in blending modern technology with traditional Japanese methods.

An example of this fusion of old and new is found in Rubber Band Scatter. From afar, the work appears to

merely be a white fabric with hundreds of small rings of various shades of yellow and gold. Upon closer inspection, and glancing at the title, one realizes that the circles are meant to mimic rubber bands. To achieve this effect, NUNO workers first photocopied random arrangements of rubber bands. Then, the resulting image was silk-screened onto cloth using a silicon resin. A glossy film is then added, which together with the silicone resin gives the illusion of overlapping rubber bands. The combination of kitsch and class in this piece is ingeniously executed, saving it from its potential gimmickry.

Another innovative yet understated piece is Burner Dye (Karadaki). This fabric of soft and silky grays is deceptive as the threads used in this piece are actually composed of ultra-fine stainless steel, the same kind used to reinforce tires. Similarly, Copper Cloth's radiant pink gloss is created out of thin copper telephone wire along with a synthetic called promix, made of regenerated milk casein and the petrochemical acrylonitrile. It is obvious that the novelty of these two pieces was not done for its own sake. The highly unique materials were employed because they are the best to make such stunning works of art.

The highlight of the BMA show is certainly Origami Pleat, a work that is simultaneously elegant and unconventional. The fabric is folded in such a way that it seems to unravel like a waterfall, with the light reflecting off its various angles and depths in surprising and often exciting ways.

NUNO: Japanese Tradition/Innovation in Cloth is an exhibit that proves that the treatment of textiles as a second-class artistic medium is unfounded. By combining modern and traditional techniques NUNO fashions fabrics in a way that demonstrates the potential of all the applied arts.

NUNO: Japanese Tradition/Innovation in Cloth is on display at the BMA through October 7, 2007.



COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
Origami Pleat, created by NUNO, is on display at the BMA.

JHU Film Fest draws 35mms, not crowds

By EMILY BENJAMIN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Leaving in its wake the ossified magma of dream imagery, a gratuitous pile of corpses and enough premature aging to drop your dentures at, this past weekend marked the 11th annual Johns Hopkins Film Festival. As in recent years, the Film Society curated a festival grand in ambition and rich in scope ...

As in recent years, the Film Society curated a festival grand in ambition and rich in scope ...

being remade this year), to the Shriver Hall screen. A worthy choice for its utterly realistic envisioning of the breaking down of unspoken societal contracts — a sociopath's playground — the consequential static pace, jagged action sequences and multiple anticlimaxes ultimately made for an awkward screening.

The Sunday evening showcase concluded the festival with two early 1990s experimental films by director Peggy Ahwesh, *The Color of Love*, running about 10 minutes and *The Deadman*, a bit longer at 35 minutes. *The Deadman* soldered together a choppy concoction of silent film title cards and intermittent speech, jukebox love songs and orgies and deadpan with black humor to deliver a difficult though oddly satisfying excursion of a wife set free to run naked through the local bar and forest following the death of her husband, whose fly-swarmed remains are all but forgotten. If a barbiturate-addled housewife passed out on the couch one afternoon watching Kern's *Fingered*, this would be her fever dream.

How does the Film Society decide what to show? Board members screen each submission, including student films, experimental shorts, independent

relatively high at both of these screenings, especially on behalf of non-Hopkins students for *Drawing Restraint 9* — it's always good when something other than a foam party pops the Hopkins bubble every once in a while.

Saturday evening brought *Funny Games*, Michael Haneke's 1997 Austrian film (incidentally

feature lengths and often international entries, this year from Iceland, Israel and England. The festival marked the stateside premiere of the eerie *The Magic Opera*, from Liverpoolian director James Chalmers. Simply enough, the group then chooses "the ones that we would most want to watch," according to Mittman. "We also request films on the festival circuit that catch our eye." *The Nightingale Princess* was one of those requested. Beautifully shot and serenely scored, the 46-minute film directed by Christopher Dreisbach plays out like the fantasy world that engrosses the protagonist, to the point of seamless transitions in and out of animation. Had a half-skilled casting director been employed, you might have already known about it.

In the case of certain films shown this year, Mittman stated that the Film Society is sometimes expressly approached by directors or film co-ops offering to fund the cost of the reels. When the board members agree upon these submissions, it's absolutely fortuitous. 35 mm, the preferred approach of the Film Society, isn't cheap — but what fine things are? "We show most on 35-mm film and project them on to the largest screen in Maryland, which is much more exciting than just watching something on DVD, which anyone can do at home," Film Society secretary Julia Zhou said.

The current board is composed entirely of juniors, meaning that this was the first festival they were responsible for organizing as a team. "This was our first time running it, so next year will be easier," Mittman said.

"We hope we will be able to continue our film series during the fall and spring semesters,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE B8

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Hip Hop Project shows young rappers' pain

By **SASHA ROUSSEAU**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

You know all those times when you lay in your twin bed up in your room and listened to your parents shout? Or thought about how ugly/lonely/lame you were? Or when you blasted hard rock? You know how you thought that life sucked?

Well, you ain't seen nothing yet.

In the documentary *The Hip Hop Project*, we meet a group of kids in Brooklyn whose lives are really hard. They deal with homelessness, abuse, parents gone MIA, poverty, crime and just plain hopelessness on a scale that is happily foreign to much of the Hopkins student body.

But even for kids dealing with tough issues, the future doesn't have to be as bleak as it seems. So Chris "Kazi" Rolle, a promising young rapper, raised in the Bahamas and living in

New York, got involved in a community outreach organization called Art-Start. In 1999 he started an auxiliary program called The Hip Hop Project, which enlisted a group of high school would-be rappers to write and release an album. *The Hip Hop Project* documentary recounts the last few months before the album's release, and the continuing efforts of the program.

The kids Kazi worked with

say that the program gave them hope and a sense of belonging that they wouldn't have felt otherwise. The impact on them was likely augmented, however, by the fact that the promised album took years longer than expected to produce. When Kazi heard the kids' original "gangsta" lyrics and off-tempo rap, he realized that a lot of research and growth was needed to turn them into authentic artists.

He encouraged the kids to mine their own lives and feelings for material, creating art that expressed and represented them as individuals. The emotional work was tough, and by the time *Hip Hop Proj-*



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM](http://www.allmoviephoto.com)
Christopher "Cannon" Mapp lends his voice to the world through the ground-breaking *Hip Hop Project*.

ect Vol. I: *Are You Feelin' Me* was released in 2003, Kazi and the kids had become a kind of family. The glimpses we get of their creative process, though limited, provide the film's most electric moments.

On camera, for instance, one boy raps about his stepfather. "Listen up!" he yells, as his voice breaks. Tears fall as fast as rain as he freestyles about his stepfather's preference for his biological sons, about the hurt he feels from his own father's rejection. He raps for maybe three or four minutes, and the rhymes don't always work. But it's riveting and real.

Raw emotion also flares during the final desperate fundraising efforts for the album's production. Those last days before the album's production are the ones that the documentary focuses on most, and we get a peek at the larger world that these kids are up against.

In order to pick up more patrons, the kids must bare their souls to strangers at cock-

tail parties and other modest events. After rapping to a bunch of strangers about her heart-wrenching decision to get an abortion, Diana "Princess" Lemon looks drained. "It'll be easier telling my story when I'm getting paid," she says, stalking awkwardly away from the camera. In those moments, the anguish of the participants jumps right off the screen.

Rap, echoing that anguish and bare emotion, is shot through the film. Most of the soundtrack is made up of original music from *The Hip Hop Project*

CONTINUED ON PAGE B8

Sex refuses to be taken seriously

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

Senior Zach Goodman brings great charisma to the stage, and is able to turn from a lover-boy sheriff to angsty teen on a dime, keeping both offbeat and funny. Senior Jerome Fox only has a minor part as the Arellano Theatre Art Director, but even while sitting silently at a table, he can get laughs just by his dead on portrayal of an artsy-fartsy dweeb. Junior Adar Eisenbruch is so alert to the audience that he can time and emphasize his jokes according to their tastes, injecting a little bit of improvisation to great effect. Junior Jackie Jennings, given easily half a dozen fairly minor parts, manages to make them all unique. All of the actors in the piece pull their weight, obviously giving their all and throwing themselves into the absurd half-world of *Sex* with great success.

The exuberance of the performers is echoed in the way they utilize the space of the stage. Their entrances and exits are quick. They form lines and march around with swaying hips and jazz hands. They form bizarre tableaux. Signs on a projection screen near the ceiling are the only indications of the settings to be imagined from the bare stage, but that bareness is worth it, since it provides room for such antics.

One corner of the stage, however, is taken up by the electric guitar player, junior Will Chang, who provides the soundtrack. His still presence in the background is funny in its own right, and the music he provides adds a crucial polish to the production. A contrast is created between the sophisticated music and the deliberate clumsiness of the stage action, highlighting the play's delicious absurdity.

The production revels in the humor that stems from absurdity. And everything, from the campy pictures on the projector screen, to the finessed guitar licks, to the crazed shenanigans of the cast and characters, add to the delightful sense of the absurd.

You won't think back on *Sex* a.k.a. *Wieners and Boobs* and think about the economics of the sex trade or the state of gender relations in America. If you do, you missed the point. But you will look back on the show and remember that you laughed a couple dozen times in just an hour and a half. And those laughs are surely worth the price of admission.

New Vibrations

Bright Eyes
Cassadaga
Saddle Creek
April 10, 2007



"Would you agree times have changed?" is the retort of Conor Oberst, at the end of *Cassadaga's* first track, to all the Bob Dylan comparisons he's been getting the past couple of years. But it is also a question that recalls current events — war, religious fanaticism and global warming — and throws them up into a tornado blowing across a superstitious America. The eye of this storm is over Cassadaga, a small community in Florida notable for its population of clairvoyants.

The words of mediums and séances across the folk culture of the United States flow in a stream-of-consciousness style that is less direct and personal than previous Bright Eyes albums, while the production has gotten notably smoother. Gone are the rough cuts on bedroom microphones, as are the distortion and clipping of unprocessed recordings. Bright Eyes is now making a full-fledged pop album, with the sleek every-track-in-a-different-style production to prove it.

The album begins with what sounds like radio show, a female psychic with an optimistic Middle-American accent talking about Cassadaga being where you are going to find the center of energy and of "getting rid of the old feelings and the old ways of thinking" over a discordant orchestra. This psychic energy motif appears in numerous places across the album as do various

other motifs of dead civilizations of grandeur, the four directions of the map and of being caught in the in between. Western civilization comes crashing down in the chorus of the first single "Four Winds" with the prophecy, "When Great Satan's gone, the whore of Babylon ... she caves".

This richness of apocalyptic imagery can also be seen in the dreamy half-asleep line of "Cities encircled in iron / on a great silver beltway, democracy's shackled hands" which is uttered towards the end of the album before an Arabic vocal track floats in, as if the winds of the Middle East have blown through the New Jersey Turnpike. My only gripes are that the lyrics can at times be frustratingly vague and blunt the full power of Oberst's famously personal confessions and that the song "Soul Singer in a Session Band" should have been a B-side, but all of the other twelve songs are poignant and essential.

The Bright Eyes of Cassadaga has been through 2007 and seen the same collapse of space and time before, or as Oberst says himself, "The wind when it blows is older than Rome and all of this sorrow/See the new pyramids down in old Manhattan/from the roof of a friend's I watched an empire ending."

— Adam Lempel

Mika
Life in Cartoon Motion
Casablanca/Island
March 27, 2007



British artist Mika (pronounced Mee-kah) is this year's adorable export. Last year it was that loveably annoying James Blunt, and now, we have sugar-coated Mika, who made a name for himself in the states by selling out to commercials for cell phones and MTV's *The Hills*. Smart guy.

That's where I first heard his song "Love Today." I was munching toast and flipping through the stations one morning and upon my ears there lit a ringing "La-da-dee-da-dee," chorus that made me perk up a little. The commercial used the best parts of the song and after some research I figured out who this Mika character was. He has friends in high places (most notably blogger Perez Hilton who is his No. 1 fan — they share make-up artists, apparently) and has used that to promote his second album, *Life in Cartoon Motion*.

I've already told you about his first hit, "Love Today." It's undeniably fun and a little self-

centered. The boy also lays down a falsetto that would make the Bee Gees bow down, polyester jump suits and all, in respect. The next hit off the album was "Grace Kelly." I originally hated this song because I couldn't ever dream of reaching the high notes (recall *The Darkness*' "I Believe in a Thing Called Love"), but since then the song has grown on me. It is a totally adorable track about people's perceptions and just wanting to please the world, something that Mika won't have any trouble with.

With "Relax Take it Easy" Mika took a note out of Madonna's last album and boogied down with that disco fever. "The rest of the album is sugar-coated and sprinkled with a few coming-of-age songs here and there. *Life in Cartoon Motion* is a little on the immature side, but it is a wonderfully guilty pleasure.

— Alex Begley

Hilary Duff
Dignity
Hollywood Records
April 3, 2007



In her new album, *Dignity*, Hilary Duff sets out to produce adult dance music that avoids the gimmicks of her peers, Britney, Lindsay and Paris.

In the album's title track, Hilary overtly attacks these celebrities, alternatively declaring that "Where's your dignity/I think you left it in the Hollywood hills" and "It's not news when you got into bed! As everyone surely knows, Duff is the real deal.

Yet, while she attacks the phoniness of the Paris Hiltons of the world (or just those of Hollywood), her music sounds a slightly less original Gwen Stefani. The song "Gypsy Woman"

echoes Stefani's first solo work with its thumping techno beats and pop vocals. Ironically for a self-proclaimed dance album, the catchiest song is the pop rock "Outside of You." Also bearable is the song "Dreamer," which updates Depeche Mode for the 21st century.

Despite *Dignity's* unoriginality and overall blandness, Duff still has her place in contemporary music. Several tracks from this pop-dance-rock album, when mixed by a skilled DJ, will serve a dance club well.

— Alexander Traum

Robinsons features state-of-the-art CGI

By **ASHLEY WIETSMA**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Disney's latest animated movie may not have princesses, dwarves or clownfish; however, it won't fail to make you laugh or warm your heart. Based upon William Joyce's novel *A Day with Wilbur Robinson*, *Meet the Robinsons* opened in theaters last week. This computer-animated film illustrates the importance of family and magic of discovery.

Meet the Robinsons tells the story of Lewis, a unique orphan boy. His passion is unlike other that of other 12-year-old boys. He doesn't like sports or super heroes; rather, Lewis loves inventing. Though he's vivacious and friendly, he has yet to have a successful adoption interview. Every time he meets a couple, Lewis manages to scare them off with his unpredictable inventions over 124 times. It seems that he will never have a real family.

Lewis then decides to somehow find his mother who left him on the stoop of the orphanage. No one knows who she is or where she's from, but Lewis has one faint memory of her. To aid himself in his endeavor, he in-

vents the Memory Scanner, a machine that scans your brain (your hippocampus, to be precise) for a specific memory and displays it on a screen. Little does he know that the evil Bowler Hat Guy covets his latest invention.

At the science fair, the Bowler Hat Guy steals Lewis' memory scanner and brings it back to the future. Luckily Lewis has a friend from the future on his side, Wilbur Robinson. Together the two young boys travel over 30 years into the future. Upon entering into the new world of flying cars and self-assembled buildings, Lewis meets Wilbur's family. The Robinson family consists of Grandpa Bud, who wears his clothes backwards, his disco-loving grandma, many crazy uncles, two even crazier cousins and his musically inclined mother. Franny Robinson, Wilbur's kindhearted mother conducts a big-band orchestra of frogs. Lewis has finally found the perfect family. Will he be able to stay in the future and become a Robinson? His presence in the future could eventually disrupt the entire space-time continuum.

This latest computer-animated film follows *Chicken Little* and *A Nightmare Before Christmas* as the

third 3D digitally animated film from Disney. Surprisingly, the effects of 3D did not drastically change the experience. The computer-generated imagery could easily stand alone due to its detailed realism. The film has moments typical of 3D films, like a shot of the heroes flying through a cavernous steel framework. The 3D experience is not offered in all movie theaters, and may not be worth going out of your way.

Disney used a different tone of humor in *Meet the Robinsons*. There aren't as many witty one-liners like *Toy Story* or a particular character that acts as the comic relief like in *Finding Nemo*. The entire Robinson family acts as one hilarious character. The humor can only be described as zany and ridiculous. From frogs acting as mobsters to a meatball cannon being used in defense against a T. rex, *Meet the Robinsons* is simply outrageous. While the movie will have you giggling, its humor is not its particular strength.

The most unique feature of the film was the origin of its central theme. *Meet the Robinsons* incorporates a quote from Walt Disney himself. The mantra of all the characters of the Robinson family is "Keep Moving Forward," a phrase Disney coined. Lewis' character is consistently discouraged by his failed inventions, which usually explode in the faces of his classmates. The Robinson family teaches him an important lesson: to embrace his mistakes. Only from our mishaps do we truly learn. If we succeeded at everything, nothing would be gained. Mistakes are inevitable and should be embraced. The most important thing to remember is to never give up and continue moving toward the future. That's a lesson that most of us can relate to here at Hopkins.

MEET THE ROBINSONS

Starring: Angela Bassett, Daniel Hansen, Jordan Fry
Director: Stephen Anderson
Run Time: 1 hr 42 mins
Rating: G
Playing at: The Rotunda



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM](http://www.allmoviephoto.com)
Wilbur Robinson inhabits a futuristic world where teenagers can drive flying cars.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

At an advance screening at Baltimore's Charles Theatre, the star of *The Hip Hop Project* gave a special performance for the press.

Project imparts wisdom beyond hip hop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B7
participants, and their live performances are shown throughout, giving the documentary much of its vitality. That vitality is enhanced by the slick directorial style, which features fre-

quent fast-forward time lapses, and startlingly lit close-ups.

But despite its visual beauty and emotional force, the documentary eventually collapses into meandering incoherence due to its complete lack of narrative structure. Possible climaxes, such as the death of one project member's parent, or a huge fund-raising surprise, are simply skimmed over.

There is no dramatic build up, no visible change in character for any of the participants, no organizational structure to hold the documentary together. It's simply a collection of random moments, most of them powerful in their own rights, but with no place in the greater story. Any theme more complex than "Brooklyn: scary" and "Hip Hop Project: good" gets lost in the rubble.

As he powerful moments pile up, we can't help but care deeply about the participants and the world they live in. So it's unacceptable that dramatic momentum

is so ill-maintained that the film manages to become dull despite itself.

The Hip Hop Project is a fascinating, deeply affecting documentary that will stay in the back of any viewer's mind. The music is powerful. The film has a luscious, vaguely theatrical look to it. It's worth seeing, because it says something important about humanity, hope and art.

But in the end, this documentary is only a lavish brochure, instead of an investigative narrative. Bits and pieces are heart-wrenchingly powerful, but the sum is ultimately less than its parts.

THE HIP HOP PROJECT

Starring: Doug E. Fresh, Chris 'Kazi' Rolle, Russell Simmons
Director: Matt Ruskin
Run Time: 1 hr 28 mins
Rating: R
Playing at: N/A

MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER
Rapper Kazi performs at the Charles Theatre.

Film Fest features work by Matthew Barney

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6
Zhou said. "We also plan to co-sponsor more events with other student groups, as we hope to draw a larger Hopkins audience and become more visible on campus."

For a deeper look into the film festival the News-Letter sent movie reviewers Simon Waxman and Matt Hansen to see *Zardoz* and *Drawing Restraint 9*, respectively. Here are their takes on these film festival standouts.

Zardoz

When a human body comes into contact with an electric circuit of appropriate amperage — typically between 0.01 and 0.02 amperes — something quite spectacular occurs. The body experiences muscular contractions and grips the source of current with increasing ferocity, subjecting itself to a hearty roasting. Sometimes, bad movies have a similar effect, demanding our attention not despite, but rather because of their extraordinary inadequacy.

Zardoz (1974), which was shown at this year's Hopkins Film Festival, is one such movie. It is a livewire and some of us just can't let go. It is stupid and ridiculous and all puffed up with gaudy intellectual plumage, but it is not unwatchable, and, according to the logic attending cinematic folly, must therefore be sought out with all the more intensity. But you don't really watch *Zardoz* in any active sense. You just kind of let it happen to you and marvel at the tenacity of the film crew that managed to bring it to screen even though they surely realized just how pointless the whole endeavor was.

What is most surprising about *Zardoz* is that the crew in question was led by writer/director/producer John Boorman, a guy with serious cinematic credentials. Before *Zardoz*, he directed the raw, high-tension masterpiece *Deliverance*. Post-*Zardoz* he retold the legend of King Arthur to great effect in *Excalibur*, one of the best fantasy movies of

the '80s. He is also responsible for stellar productions like *Point Blank* (1967) and *Hope and Glory*, a decent 1987 film that wasn't as good as its several Oscar nominations would suggest.

So, how a talented screenwriter and director such as Boorman gave us *Zardoz* truly is a mystery. I'm guessing powerful psychedelics may have been at work. The movie actually seems to have some wits about it, but who cares when the main character Zed (Sean Connery, hahaha) steals the show with such lines as "I've seen men rape [pause] an old crippled woman [pause] in a wet ditch." Mmm, perfecto!

Of course, just because *Zardoz* is incoherent and senseless doesn't mean it isn't good for a hoot or two. Thanks to Connery's antics (and attire, composed of a red leather loincloth and bandolier), a cast of effeminate immortals plucked from the grounds of a crystal healing convention, and the least sexy orgies this side of *Caligula*, *Zardoz*, ultimately, does what many films cannot. It delivers.

— Simon Waxman

Drawing Restraint 9

At first blush, the creators of *Drawing Restraint 9* (2005) have some appealing credentials. Matthew Barney's five-part *Cremaster Cycle* is a well-loved meditation on creativity and sexuality that features, among others, Norman Mailer and Ursula Andress. Björk was nominated for an Academy Award for her film *Dancer in the Dark* and has a highly regarded singing career. But then you realize: Barney's *Cycle* will never be exhibited outside of contemporary art museums because of its \$100,000 per DVD price tag, and its premise is the filmic representation of spermatogenesis, and Björk's music has been characterized as atonal, challenging and sonically unappealing — all pointing to the fact that *Drawing Restraint 9* is not going to be a film for everyone.

Indeed, there are moments of

painterly beauty in the long, meditative scenes and lingering camera work, and Barney's work on his past films has gifted him with a photographer's eye for light and a designer's grasp of setting. Björk, to her credit, shows a complete absorption in her graceful gestured acting, and fuses a Japanese lilt with her sometimes sweeping, always appropriate soundtrack. Though *Drawing Restraint 9* feels slightly more contrived than some of Barney's more fluid past works, it nevertheless is just as pretty to look at, with his trademark gossamer, de-saturated footage aboard the actual Japanese whaling ship Nisshin Maru.

Yet even a beautiful movie aims to be more than a collection of appealing images, and it's here that the average viewer may struggle with the film. Clocking in at over two hours, with one two-minute block of spoken dialogue along its entire length, *Drawing Restraint 9* avowedly attempts to explore the concept of limitation and transformation, but, at times, it's difficult not to feel that Barney and Björk's vision was the limitation of the audience's attention span. Playing "the Guests" aboard the whaling ship, Barney and Björk spend much of the film involved in an elaborate Shinto marriage ceremony which, while lovingly filmed and seemingly accurate, nevertheless seems interminably paced and not half as interesting as the gelatin-like substance that the whaling ship is infused with. Eventually — and slowly — the film reaches its bloody climax, where the prey of the whaling vessel are symbolically linked to "the Guests" themselves through a flurry of activity between Björk and Barney involving whale stripping knives. It's a very appropriate capstone for a film that asks as many questions as it will ever answer, and challenges its audience to look past contemporary art tropes to find individual themes that resonate with themselves. Whether the themes or the viscous goo will remain with the audience longer remains to be seen.

— Matt Hansen



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BIOTERRORISM, AND
CHILDHOOD DISEASE.
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In the battle against disease, the Nation needs a powerful weapon. When you join the officers of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, you join an elite group of health professionals dedicated to meeting the needs of underserved populations and improving the health of Americans. Whether providing patient care, conducting vital research, or responding to urgent public health challenges like hurricanes and other natural disasters, the physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and many other professionals of the Commissioned Corps are there—protecting, promoting, and advancing the health and safety of the Nation. Join the fight for public health. Join the Corps.



To learn more about a career in the Commissioned Corps, visit www.usphs.gov or call 1-800-279-1605.



CARTOONS, ETC.

your horoscope



Aries: (March 21 – April 19)
You will sit in your apartment next week, planning to plan a list of things to do. You should plan to do this, right about ... hey, cookie.



Taurus: (April 20 – May 20)
Know what? There's nothing wrong with picking your nose, not even if it prevents you from going to class. 'Cause, like, boogers. Heh.



Gemini: (May 21 – June 20)
Your level of ambition this semester is so low, you ... Um, just wondering, anyone want to go get a sandwich? No? Okay, just asking.



Cancer: (June 21 – July 22)
Senioritis is a disease, a terrible, terrible disease, similar to malaria or having two faces. That's right. Two faces, man. Two faces.



Leo: (July 23 – Aug. 22)
Is it wrong of you to procrastinate so hard, you put off breathing for minutes at a time? I don't know. Don't really care at this point.



Virgo: (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)
Bad crap is going to happen to you. <Cancer joke> <Oblique reference to alien abduction and/or butt sex.> <Death joke.>



Libra: (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)
When lions and tigers get into fights, generally what happens is, one of them bites the other. Seriously, what is point anymore?



Scorpio: (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)
You have been reading Horoscopes for four years. Four long, hard, exhausting years. Four years that will end soon, very soon.



Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)
Write bad jokes? You should submit some to *N-L* Horoscopes, if you get around to it. I mean, whenever. If you have the time.



Capricorn: (Dec. 23 – Jan. 19)
Horoscopes have never been more important to your life, now that you have no foreseeable future. Also ... I forget what I was saying.



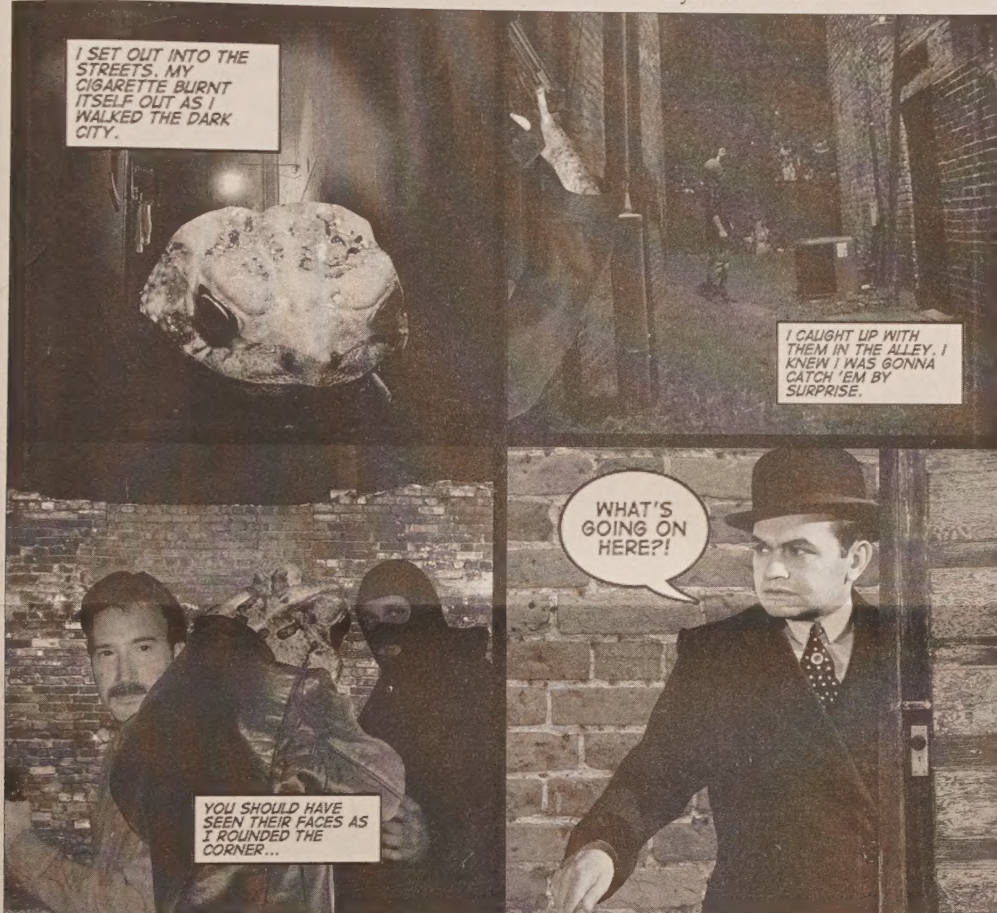
Aquarius: (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)
Like that passionate crush you once had for Zack Morris, your motivation is a thing of the past. Or is it? Yeah, it is. I guess it is, Zack.



Pisces: (Feb. 19 – March 20)
These are pretty important, especially if you plan on carrying things. I just copied and pasted last week's Horoscope there. Yep.

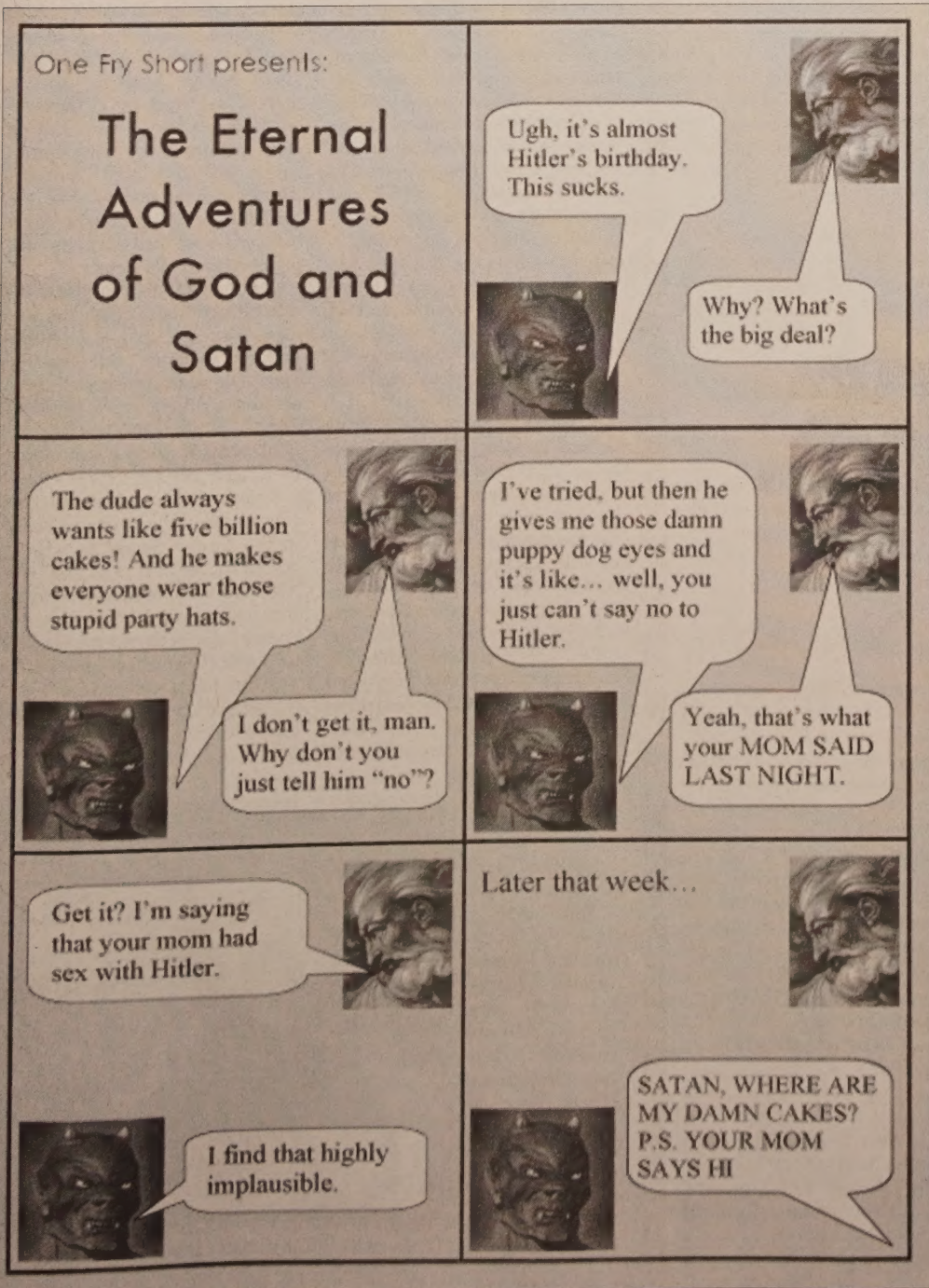
Toad Detective

by Matt Hansen



One Fry Short

by Matt Diamond



The Truth Hurts

by William Parschalk



Wasted Ink

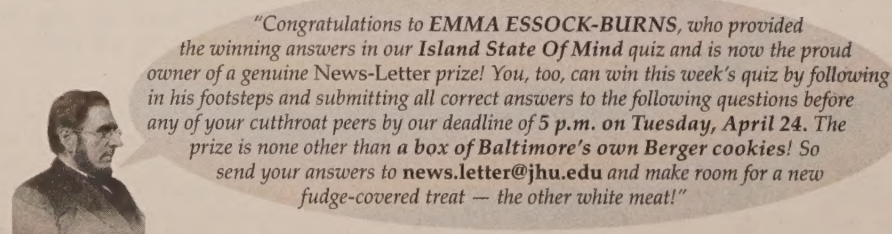
by Nate Min



The Inquisition

by Matt Hansen

THE CRAZY 'EIGHTIES SOUND QUIZ



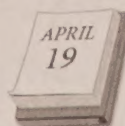
1. There's no doubt about the fact that *Cocktail* was a minor bump on Tom Cruise's road to eventual stardom and Scientological domination of the earth. What song about "a will that is not your own" is featured in the film?
2. One glance in Sylvester Stallone's eyes tells you all you need to know in *Rocky III*: Balboa is going to regain his title, no matter what sweaty heavyweight he needs to beat to get there. What song about "a man and his will to survive" is featured in the film?
3. The undisputed king of early hip-hop films, *Krush Groove*, features fresh-faced Run DMC alongside the famous and forgotten of the New York hip-hop scene, just trying to sell an album. What song about "sucker MCs" is featured in the film?
4. Hands intertwined, the ultimate high-school heartthrob, his lady, and his hypochondriac best friend make their great escape in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. What song about "Central Park in fall" is featured in the film?
5. The Brat Pack transformed everyday high-school detention into one of the most popular movies of 1985 in *The Breakfast Club*. What song about "taking a break from the everyday" is featured in the film?
6. Mel Gibson reprises his role as the black-leather-clad hero of the apocalyptic highways in *Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome*. What song about "the ones left behind" is featured in the film?
7. Clad in mesh and lace, Deborah Foreman plays the ultimate California girl to Nicolas Cage's punk kid in *Valley Girl*, the movie that sparked Cage's movie career and made "gag me with a spoon" a trademark phrase. What song about "a pilgrimage to save the human race" is featured in the film?
8. Before Jennifer Connelly was beautiful and David Bowie was the Thin White Duke, they starred together in *Labyrinth*. What song about "that baby's spell" is featured in the film?
9. Though many thought he was probably liquored up, Pee-Wee Herman made his kids' movie debut in *Pee-Wee's Great Adventure*. What song about everybody's favorite booze is featured in the film?

Don't forget to send your answers to news.letter@jhu.edu by April 24 at 5 p.m.!

Last Week's Answers: 1) Channel Islands, 2) Bahrain, 3) Pitcairn Island, 4) Japan, 5) Earl of Sandwich, 6) Ellis Island, 7) Lesbos, 8) Guano

CALENDAR

CALENDAR



Campus Events

Thursday, April 19

8 p.m. Witness Theater presents a year's-end showcase of student-written one-act plays. Plays by Liz Eldridge, Sal Gentile, Sasha Rousseau and Oleg Shik will be performed in Arellano Theatre. Tickets are free.

8 p.m. Come to a Dance Marathon! Visit <http://www.jhudance-marathon.org> to register yourself or a group to dance from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. All the proceeds go to The Manna House, which provides food and support to the needy in Baltimore. If you have any questions about getting involved, please e-mail jstern16@jhu.edu.

Friday, April 20

8 p.m. Witness Theater presents a year's-end showcase of student-written one-act plays. Plays by Liz Eldridge, Sal Gentile, Sasha Rousseau and Oleg Shik will be performed in Arellano Theatre. Tickets are free.

8 p.m. The Mental Notes will hold a spring a cappella concert. This free performance will be in the Mudd Hall auditorium.

8 p.m. Johns Hopkins University Theater's upcoming show, *Fifth Of July* opens tonight in the Merrick Barn.

Saturday, April 21

10 a.m. Hopkins Hunger to Help and Homecoming Tailgate is being held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be tables set up all along the Beach with peanut butter, jelly and bread on each table. They have set a goal of making 5,000 sandwiches to be given out to the homeless and hungry in Baltimore and throughout Maryland. At the front of the

Beach, they will be grilling up free burgers and hot dogs. The first 500 participants will get free T-shirts, so come out before the lacrosse game against Navy and have a good time while making a difference in the community. The event is hosted by Delta Upsilon, Community Building & Social Change, ResLife, StuCo, RAB and HOP.

12 p.m. The Barnstormers will be holding their annual Shakespeare performance. They will be performing *The Comedy of Errors* on the quad-side steps of MSE Library. The performance will be free. For more information, e-mail jhubarnstormers@gmail.com

8 p.m. The Sirens will hold their spring concert. This free performance will be in the Mudd Hall auditorium.

8 p.m. Johns Hopkins University Theater's upcoming show, *Fifth Of July* plays tonight in the Merrick Barn.

10 p.m. Come to the DMC's Game Night from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. in Mattin 226. There will be open rounds of Warcraft III, DDR: Stepmania, Guitar Hero, console games, videos, animae, free food and prizes! This free event is open to full-time Homewood students. No advance registration required. Call 410-516-3817 for information.

Sunday, April 22

12 p.m. The Barnstormers will be holding their annual Shakespeare performance. They will be performing *The Comedy of Errors* on the quad-side steps of MSE Library. The performance will be free, for more information email jhubarnstormers@gmail.com

2 p.m. Johns Hopkins University Theater's upcoming show, *Fifth Of July* plays tonight in the Merrick Barn.

4 p.m. *Zeniada*, a literary maga-

zine group on campus, is holding their elections meeting this Sunday at the couches in Gilman Hall. Every year, *Zeniada* publishes a giant magazine full of students' artwork, short stories and poetry. The publication is expanding its executive board this year, and it is looking for motivated, creative people to join the team! Come with ideas and suggestions, or just bring yourself! All positions open!

5 p.m. Witness Theater presents a year's-end showcase of student-written one-act plays. Plays by Liz Eldridge, Sal Gentile, Sasha Rousseau and Oleg Shik will be performed in Arellano Theatre. Tickets are free.

8 p.m. Ketzev will be performing Hebrew and American a cappella in the Mudd Hall auditorium. The show will be free.

Tuesday, April 24

7 p.m. Michael Crichton will speak about gene patenting and his newest book, *Next*, as part of Bioethics Week. The event will be held in Shriver Hall; doors open at 6:30 p.m.

7 p.m. Frank Warren, the compiler of the *PostSecret* blog and books, will be discussing and signing his new book, *The Secret Lives of Men and Women*, in the Charles Commons Conference Center from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event is free and is sponsored by the Hopkins Barnes & Noble Bookstore. For more information, call (410) 662-5850.

Got an event?

Send details about future events including date, time, location and a brief summary of the event to events@jhunewsletter.com. Please e-mail all events by the Monday before publication.

Exposure

By Laura Bitner



Concerts and Clubs

Thursday, April 19

8 p.m. Come see a great show tonight at the Ottobar featuring Piebald with special guests MC Chris and House of Fools. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

8 p.m. The Heavycoats, Payola Reserve, Sugar Report and Faster Faster Harder will be playing at Sonar tonight. For more information and tickets go to <http://www.sonar.us>.

8 p.m. Zero featuring Steve Kimock, Donna Jean Godchaux, Melvin Seals, Greg Anton, Martin Fierro, John Morgan Kimock and Liam Hanrahan will be playing at Rams Head

Live!. Check out <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for more information.

Friday, April 20

9 p.m. The Gore Gore Girls, Gunwife Gone, Secret Crush Society and The Lighter Thieves will be at The Ottobar tonight. For tickets and information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

8 p.m. Come check out the ultimate Pink Floyd experience with Several Species at the Recher Theatre. The band will be playing tonight and Saturday. For information go to <http://www.recher-theatre.com>.

8 p.m. At Sonar tonight check out Jedi Mind Tricks, Sean P, Reef the

Lost Cuaze and Third Kind. Later on in the night will be the Taxlo Indie Dance Party. For more information and tickets go to <http://www.sonar.us>.

Saturday, April 21

7 p.m. Brand New with Kevin Devine and Manchester Orchestra will play at Rams Head Live! tonight. Check out <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for tickets and information.

8 p.m. Joseph Arthur and the Lonely Astronauts along with Stars of Track & Field will be playing Sonar. Check <http://www.sonar.us> for more information and ticketing.

8 p.m. Afreudianslip and Agents

of the Sun with Burn the Fields and Outreach will be playing at Fletcher's Bar. Go to <http://www.fletchersbar.com> for more information.

9 p.m. World Inferno Friendship Society will be playing the Ottobar along with National Razor F.D.I.C. and the Dirty Marmaduke Flute Squad. Check out <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

11 p.m. Clipse & Mya w/ Jovan Dais will be playing tonight. You must be 21+. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

Sunday, April 22

6 p.m. Bury Your Dead, Suicide Silence, Stick to Your Guns, Since the Flood and One Step Too Many will play at the Ottobar. Visit <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

Monday, April 23

7 p.m. Lovedrug and Army of Me will be playing Sonar tonight. Check them out at <http://www.sonar.us> for tickets and show information.

7:30 p.m. Virgin College Mega Tour featuring Talib Kweli is coming to Rams Head Live! Sugarcult and William Tell (of Something Corporate) will also be performing. There is a reduced ticket price for college students. For more information and tickets, visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

8 p.m. Rock out with Acid Mothers Temple, Mammatus and Vincent Black Shadow at the Ottobar. Visit <http://www.theottobar.com> for information and ticketing.

Zippy counter-culturalist Bill Griffith comes to JHU

By WILLIAM PARSHALK
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Underground comics guru Bill Griffith is set to expand your cartoon horizons this Thursday in the Mattin Center's SDS Room, where he will present a slide lecture free and open to the public.

Griffith is best known for his counter-punchline hero Zippy the Pinhead. Zippy first appeared in 1970, became weekly in 1976, and eventually found his way into national syndication, appearing in papers such as the *Baltimore Sun* and the *Washington Post*. Zippy's style of humor revolves around ironic and subtle critiques of American culture, often featuring American pop icons such as Hello Kitty and Bob's Big Boy.

Like his contemporaries Matt Groening (*The Simpsons*), Mike Judge (*Beavis and Butthead*, *King of the Hill*) and Ben Katchor, Griffith has long been an outsider within the mainstream. He first got started with the counter-culture indie comics scene in New York City, and soon moved to San Francisco, which was his base of operations until 1998. Inspired by the 1932 cult classic film *Freaks*, he created the title character. His initial desire was to use *Zippy the Pinhead* as an additional source of income. The strip eventually took off all on its own, though, and brought Griffith all sorts of attention.

It was through *Zippy the Pinhead* that the phrase, "Are we having fun yet?", first popped into the American lexicon. While many others have attempted to take credit for the saying, Griffith stands strong to his claim, and has been acknowl-

edged by Bartlett's.

The strip is well known for its bizarre and eccentric cast of characters. Griffith introduced the persona Griffy to act as the voice of the creator himself, and express his points-of-view on the various topics within American society that the strip tackles. Zippy is often featured in the strip having conversations with the various consumer icons he encounters, which are taken from real-life. Local Baltimore BBQ favorite Andy Nelson's once had their lovable pig portrayed in a strip.

Aside from just real-life roadside attractions, Griffith has also used the comic strip to highlight various locations that actually exist. The most common of these are select diners across America that Griffith has used as settings in his strip, including Baltimore's own Sip & Bite.

Griffith has long presented his grievances with the comics scene in the United States, as well as been a source of controversy over the often trademarked characters that he borrows for his strip. Audience members can expect him to partially address these issues on Thursday's lecture.

Zippy the Pinhead also has an extensive catalog available online at <http://www.zippythepinhead.com>.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ZIPPYTHEPINHEAD.COM](http://WWW.ZIPPYTHEPINHEAD.COM)
Cartoonist Bill Griffith will visit campus this Thursday.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.MICHIGANDAILY.COM](http://WWW.MICHIGANDAILY.COM)

The rockers of Sugarcult will be playing at Rams Head Live! this Monday night as part of the Virgin College Mega Tour.

After all these years,
the *News-Letter* gets classy.

Join us at The Gatehouse
for our annual
Wine & Cheese Alumni Party
on Saturday, April 21,
after the Homecoming Game.

News-Letter Business Staff Openings

MARKETING MANAGER (1)

- In charge of maintaining contact with advertisers - student groups, University departments, local and national, while preparing ads for publication in the News-Letter.
- Directs and manages a team of up to 5 marketing representatives in soliciting ads and promoting the News-Letter to potential advertisers.
- Organizes records of advertisement sales, and keeps an accurate database of all clientele.

ADVERTISING MANAGER (1)

- Maintains classified, print and internet advertisements.
- Responsible for placing advertisements in weekly issues of the News-Letter.
- Maintains quality of advertisements and coordinates ad placement with editorial staff and graphics staff.
- Salaried Position.
- Must be detail-oriented and organized; some knowledge of Photoshop, InDesign desired, but not required.

CIRCULATION MANAGER (1)

- Oversees subscriptions and manages existing subscriber data-base.
- Creates and implements strategies in order to boost general circulation.
- Coordinates with the distribution staff to facilitate optimal delivery channels.
- Salaried Position.
- Must be responsible, organized, and detail oriented.

Interested? Contact
business@jhunewsletter.com

WHO GETS PREFERRED TREATMENT, **STUDENTS** *OR* **LENDERS?**

DEAR STUDENTS OF JOHNS HOPKINS,

Many of you are concerned by the recent revelations of corrupt practices in the student loan industry.

At MyRichUncle, we have long been running a campaign to reform student lending. We have been encouraging students to ask financial aid administrators questions like:

- “CAN YOU GUARANTEE THE LOWEST RATES?”
- “DO YOU HAVE A FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY OF THE ‘PREFERRED LENDERS’?”

MyRichUncle does not have alliances with financial aid administrators.

We do not provide them with any incentives.

We provide student loans directly to students and parents.

Our direct approach is free of conflicts of interest.

Our customers get better rates as a result.

For more information about how to get the best loan for you, and what questions you can ask to make a better decision, visit www.MyRichUncle.com.

Sincerely,
MyRichUncle

MyRichUncle's **CAMPAIGN FOR**
STUDENT LOAN REFORM

